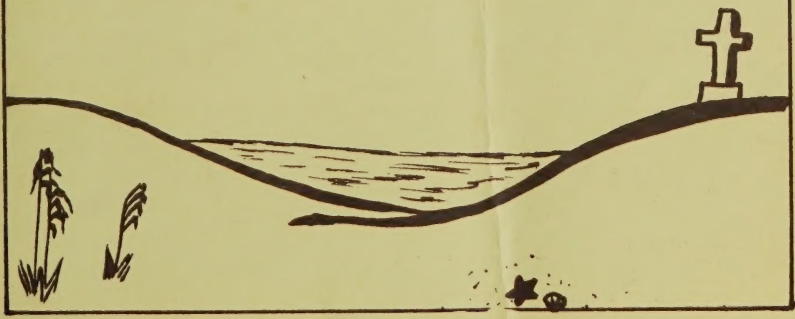
July

the Sandscript



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

of PENSACOLA

The Sandscript if a publication of M.C.C. Pensacola, located at 510 Mass. Ave. in Pensacola, Florida. M.C.C. Pensacola is a nondenominational Christian Church, affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Views expressed in articles are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Worship Coordinator nor individual members of M.C.C. Pensacola.

The publication of the name of any person, business organization or group in the Sandscript shall NOT be construed as an indication of their sexual or religious orientation.

All persons regardless of National origin, Age, Sex, Race, Socio-Economic Condition, Sexual orientation or Religious persuasion are WELCOMED.

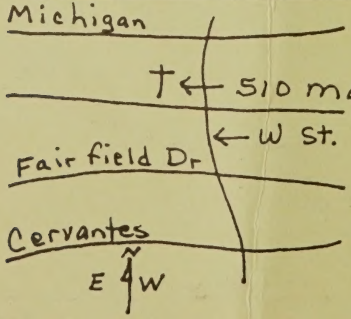
Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola
510 Massachusetts Ave. - P.O. Box 8087
Pensacola, Florida
32505

433-8528

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING 10:30
SUNDAY NIGHT 7:00

We do not have regular office hours But do check our resident secretary every morning before 10:00 A.M..



"The Place To Be In 83"

THIS NEWLETTER IS A PRODUCT OF OUR CHURCH FOR ITS MEMBERS; BY ITS MEMBERS. PLEASE HELP BY SUBMITTING MATERIAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

DEADLINE: 3rd Sunday each month

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

CHURCH NEEDS !!

1. Sheets of Panel
2. Fullfillment of PLedge
3. Use of a typewriter on Saturday evenings

Bring a friend and join us

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

M A R K A N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R
A I A J A C O B R B C B A B E L D B E
T V C A I N P A U L E R N M S E H E T
T E H E D U J E T F R A I O A O C D E
H L E G S A R A H S D M E S F J A N P
E V L U K E M S E M A J L E I Y H E E
W R E B E K K A H H H U I S R J S G S
K L L O T M J E S U S N L A A O I O A
N H O J N O A H P N A O M I H Q M D U

There are 36 proper names hidden here. All are from the Bible and include male and female names. See how many you can find.

A SANDSCRIPT INSERT

A.I.D.S. - These simple letters are creating panic, horror and fear throughout society. Not only in our gay community but in the "staight world" as well. Although to date, there have been no reported cases of this illness in this part of the state, we need to be informed. This disease is claiming now hundreds of our brothers in this country. We are not fighting cops in the streets or radicals on the beaches But an illness. This illness has become prominent in the southern part of Florida and until the cause, transmission of disease and a cure can be found we must take note.

As individuals we must:

1. Not panic
2. Become informed on the subject
3. Be open with our private physicians ... this is one time that being closeted could kill you. If your physician cannot handle your sexual preference, then find one that will. It's not the time for guessing games.
4. Take a look at our life style and how we practice it. Know who you are sharing a part of your life with---is a one night stand worth the risk.
5. If you have symptoms...don't spread it. Report to a physician.

As a Church we must:

Be able to offer encouragment and prayers for our brothers who contract the disease. This support must then be extended to the lovers, spouses and family members involved. Many of us have not had to deal with dying and death outside of our immediate families. Now we are hearing about members of our society and in some cases friends that are dying. At times it only take an ear to listen but we must be ready to offer time and prayer.

We must be willing to take a stand...its time that our group develops sexual morals, to end the so called "free sex" approach to our communities and its the core group found in our churchs that can set the example.

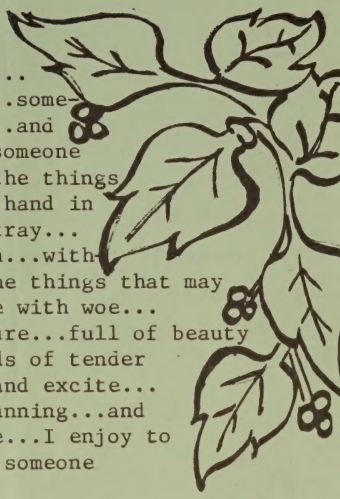
We must be willing to sponser workshops and fundraisers to aid in research. We can also write to our officials in government to encourage continued funding for research.

Sickle cell anemia is not a Black peoples disease; Tay-Sachs disease is not a Jewish disease and A.I.D.S. IS NOT A GAY disease! These are all people diseases and must be treated as such. Lets take a stand now and not wait for this to reach home before we become involved. Let us pray to an end to these diseases and for God's healing in our lives of prejudices and illness.

S.T.U.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

https://archive.org/details/2174.01.28



I enjoy to talk with someone...
who is close to me and dear...someone who will help encourage...and endow my heart with cheer...someone who will always listen...to the things I have to say...and extend a hand in friendship...if I ever go astray... someone true I can confide in...without fear all will know...of the things that may perplex me...and fill my life with woe... someone who can paint a picture...full of beauty and delight...with sweet words of tender loving...that can thrill me and excite... someone who will share my planning...and help make my dreams come true...I enjoy to talk with someone...and that someone dear Lord is you.

submitted by Terry

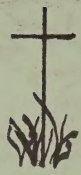
---

cont. "FROM THE...PULPIT"
We must mature in our Christianity and face it no longer with the milk of the Spirit given to the church in 1 Cor. 3; But with the full bodied food of the Holy Spirit. Putting God first and foremost in our lives and letting Him protect us. As gays we know the persacution that exist in this world. It is no different than that faced by Christians since the time of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Can we do less? NO!
We must bring our brothers and sisters into this church, into this fellowship, into this part of the body of Christ. Boards must never shut God's light out of our windows and Satan must never be allowed to bar our doors. MAKE YOUR
COMMITMENT TODAY!
WILL YOU...

Terry's and my prayers are with you all.

Steve



S Y M B O L S

There are hundreds of symbols used in our world today. Since the beginning of Christianity, people have had to use symbols to communicate just to avoid persecution. From the catacombs to underground churches today; these symbols are still being used. We will run a few of these in the weeks ahead for your information.

Our symbol this month is the UNICORN. A familiar symbol of our Lord; early accepted as a symbol of purity and therefore esp. related to the Virgin and the birth of Jesus.

We Can Do It As A TEAM
together

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

DOCTRINE: Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and is the religion set forth in the Scriptures. Jesus Christ is foretold in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament, and proclaimed by the Christian Church in every age and in every land.

Founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches moves in the mainstream of Christianity. Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the histori creeds: Apostles and Nicene.

We believe:

1. In one triune God, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God - our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit - God as our Sustainer

2. That the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.

3. That Jesus...the Christ...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is God incarnate, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being Spiritually made in God's image.

4. That the Holy Spirit is God making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in Gods' keeping.

5. Every person is justified by Grace to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

6. We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of grace, as was declared by our Savior. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.

7. The church serves to bring ALL people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of scripture, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.

Metropolitan Community Church
of Pensacola

510 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. - PHONE: 904-433-8528
Post Office Box 8087, Pensacola, Florida 32505

July 19th,1983

Dear Reverend Marge,

I hope you and Pat arrived home safely and not too tired. The Conference was a great renewal time for me and I am still going on that. It was such a great experience to feel the combined Love of the Fellowship at work. It gives one the strength to go on.

We are eagerly awaiting your arrival on the 5th of August. I will be phoning you as soon as travel arrangements have been made. We should probably discuss it by phone to be sure there are no conflicts.

Rev. Marge, I am enclosing our bulletin for the month of July. I thought it would give you an idea of our order of service. We are now printing one bulletin for the month. However, we would gladly go back to our previous practice of a new one each week.

I thought you would like to plan your own order of Service so I am enclosing another bulletin for your comments and request. We will have a special bulletin for the August 7th service. I am also enclosing our latest issue of our church publication. It needs help, but we have gone for periods of time without one. Enclosed are a couple of pictures of our building. It may not be a cathedral to some, but it is to us. We have a long way to go, but with God's help we will make it all happen for His sake and Glory. If you could return the bulletin with your order of service at least a week before your arrival, we would appreciate it. Also the pictures are the only ones we have of BEFORE.....can't wait for the AFTER.

I will be phoning you soon. Regards to Pat.

George

In Christs' Love,

George Downing

P.O.Box 131
Ft. Walton Bch,Fl 32549
904-243-8352

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola

510 Massachusetts Ave. - PHONE: 904-433-8528
Post Office Box 8087, Pensacola, Florida 32505

July 24th,1983

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DATE: AUGUST 14th,1983 (SUNDAY)
TIME: 12 NOON
PLACE: MCC CHURCH BUILDING

AGENDA

1. Vote to call the Reverend Marge Regona as Pastor of MCC Pensacola. (see attached background information.)
2. Vote to allow the Pulpit Committee to execute a one year contract with Rev. Regona.
3. Vote on travel and moving expenses incurred.

THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT MEETING. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND.

July 24th,1983

When our pulpit became vacant on June 1,1983 and in accordance with section D2,pg.13,line 31, of the UFMCC by-laws, the Board of Directors formed itself into a pulpit committee to search for and screen applicants for Pastor of MCC Pensacola. Being a Mission status church the District Coordinator and the Board of Home Missions has the final authority to appoint any Pastor. However, they usually give great weight to the recommendations of the local congregation.

Consequently a majority of the local Board of Directors attended the 11th General Conference in Toronto on July 10th,1983, for the purpose of interviewing applicants.

The first applicant the pulpit committee talked to before leaving for the Conference had 10 years experience as a Pastor in another denomination. The District Coordinator and the Board of Home Missions ruled that whoever the MCC Pensacola congregation selected must be licensed as a Minister in UFMCC with several years experience.

Of the three candidates we interviewed at the Conferrence, Reverend Marge Regona was outstanding in her qualifications, which are as follows:

1. She is a licensed and ordained Minister in UFMCC,presently in Boston, Massachusetts.
2. Has 10 years experience as a Pastor in both large and small churches.
3. Has demonstrated proficiency in problem solving, church growth, healing of interpersonal conflicts, community out-reach and outstanding work with and instruction of Student Clergy.
4. Has agreed to accept the salary we have offered and will suppliment her n income working as a nurse.
5. Reverend Regona is a mature individual who has just entered into a relationship with Pat who is an active member of MCC in Worster,Mass. She also plans to be employed full time in Pensacola. Both want to leave their respective cities and move to Florida. Rev. Marge, as she likes to be called, also has an 18 year old gay daughter who is active in MCC and who may or may not be moving south with them.
6. As an indication of the high esteem in which she is held by the Fellowship, she was nominated as an Elder of UFMCC at the Conference. However, she was not elected.

On the basis of these qualifications and the enthusiastic recommendation of our District Coordinator, other Ministers, and our Rev. Elder Freda Smith, we have invited Reverend Regona and her spouse to visit us the week-end of August 5th. Rev. Marge will conduct our 10:30 Sunday service on August 7th. The Board also suggests to the congregation that our August pot-luck dinner be held on Saturday,August the 6th to allow members and friends to meet and talk with Rev. Marge on an informal basis. She stated to us that she would like for the congregation to have an opportunity to ask her and Pat any questions that they might have concerning her life and Ministry.

Item 2 Contract

Since a majority of Ministers, including Rev. Marge, operate with an employment contract, we feel the following terms should be incorporated in our agreement with her. Each of these items have been discussed with and accepted by her. NOTE: This agreement can be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice.

1. The term of the Contract shall be for one year.
2. The salary offered is $600.00 per month. $138.46 PER WEEK WITH INCREASES AS THE BUDGET PERMITS
3. She will receive 3 weeks paid vacation because of her long tenure with the Fellowship.
4. One day off per week which shall not be Saturday or Sunday, except that she has requested OFF the 5th Sunday of any month that has 5 Sundays, ~~off~~ so that she may be allowed to preach in other Churches of MCC. Note: In 1983 there were 3 such Sundays. ON THESE SUNDAYS, SATURDAY WILL ALSO BE AN OFF-DAY
5. This contract can be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice.
6. This Contract can be renewed at the expiration of the one year period and every year there after.

Item 3 Expenses

By custom in UFMCC, a local church will pay the travel expenses of a Candidate to allow the congregation an opportunity to meet, talk with and evaluate any Candidate. Since the spouse plays such an important role in the life of the church, we think it necessary to also invite her. We anticipate these travel expenses for this interview to be approximately ~~$500.00~~ 700.00 and have agreed to apply $200.00 toward their moving expenses. SHOULD the congregation call Reverend Regona. All possible efforts are being made to keep these travel expenses as low as possible.

Because the SOP's require a congregational vote to spend over $200.00 and because there was not sufficient time to call such a meeting, the majority of the Pulpit Committee agreed to personally advance these funds with the expectation that the congregation would allow us to be reimbursed from individual contributions, love offerings and any other funds available.

All items on the Agenda will be fully discussed at the August 14th meeting. However, feel free to ask any questions at the open Board Meeting today, July, 24th.

Your Board heartilly recommends that you attend the pot-luck dinner on the 6th and the Worship Service on Sunday the 7th of August so that you can meet this outstanding Candidate. SPREAD THE WORD AND BRING SOMEONE.

Respectfully yours,

MCC PENSACOLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 29th,1983

Dear Rev. Marge,

Well, how is the packing and sorting coming along? Only wish some of us were there to help you, but I'm sure you have rounded up enough able bodies to get the job done.

Everything continues to run smoothly at this end. We had 42 in church yesterday morning and 17 for the evening service. 7 were in membership class with 2 absent. We feel the Sunday evening service is important because there are some people who, for one reason or another, cannot make it to morning service. I feel this service will grow in numbers in time. It has always been a Lay service but our past worship coordinator did not seem to feel the service was very important. We do not want to work you too hard, but we do hope that you will work with us to make this a stronger service. Some people have said that they would like to see more activity on Sunday afternoons. The people at night seem to need fellowship very much and enjoy sitting around and talking after the service. We seem to get a lot of visitors at night.

I realize that if ones spouse has Sunday off, it can sometimes be a problem when you would like to have a free day together. I think this was the problem in the past. I don't think it necessary that you be there every Sunday night, but we do need to feel your strong support and hope that you will preach often. I hope you will take these suggestions and request as they are meant. Not to be demanding, but to try and help us all avoid some problems that we have had before.

We will have an open board meeting on the 18th of September. Please feel free to bring anything to my attention that you would like to see discussed. One item on the agenda is the discussion of moving the morning service to 11 am. When the time for this service was originally set, it was decided by two people with no discussion. Mainly the reason for the time was to allow one person to get home in time to watch football. Anyway, what do you think of 11 am?

Our plans are to start on the office area Saturday and we have measured for the drapery material and are at present shopping around for the best price. We thought we would keep the color as close ~~the~~ to the color of the material behind the cross, as possible. We are expanding the office wall so that both sides of the bookcase can be used. We need all the storage space we can get. Our next project will be to get the necessary wiring done to connect the stove. We have put this off because it entails more work than just one line. We need other plugs. After this is done, the light fixtures will probably be next. It will look so much better when our present fixtures are replaced. Patience George, Patience.....

It was very nice of Keith to write. He sounds like a person we will enjoy getting to know. Steve told me that he had written to Keith with some local information.

Don't work too hard. I know moving is a chore, but I hope it will be worth it for you and Pat. We miss you both.

Love,

George

August 29th, 1933

Dear Dave, Bessie,

Well, how is the working and sleeping coming along? Only wish some of us were there to help you, but I'm sure you have counted up enough able bodies to get the job done.

Everything continues to run smoothly at this end. We had 32 in church yesterday morning and 17 for the evening service. 7 were in membership class with 2 absent. We feel the Sunday evening service is important because there are some people who, for one reason or another, cannot make it to morning service. I feel this service will grow in numbers in time. It has already been a very active but our next worship committee did not seem to feel the service was very important. We do not want to make you feel that way, but we do hope that you will work with us to make this a live service. Some people have said that they would like to see more activity on Sunday afternoons. The people at other times seem to need to relax very much and enjoy sitting around and talking after the service. We seem to get a lot of visitors at night.

I realize that if once course has Sunday off, it can sometimes be a problem when you would like to have a free day together. I think this was the problem in Ben Post. I don't think it necessary that you be there every Sunday night, but we do need to feel your strong support and hope that you will preach often. I hope you will take these suggestions and requests as they are meant. Not to be demanding, but to try and help us all avoid some problems that we have had before.

We will have an open house meeting on the 15th of September. Please feel free to bring anything to my attention that you would like to see discussed. One item on the agenda is the discussion of moving the morning service to 11 o'clock. When the time for this service was originally set, it was decided by the people attending. Mainly the reason for the time was to allow the person to get home in time to watch football. Anyway, what do you think of it now?

Our plans are to start on the office as a Monday and we have requested for the cheapest material and are at present shopping around for the best price. We should be doing the color as close like the color of the material during the course of construction. We are expecting the office will be finished by the first of October. We have all the exercise equipment we can get. Our next project will be to get the necessary wiring done to connect the above. We have put this off because it entails more work than just one life. We need other places. Then this is done, the light fixtures will probably be next. It will look so much better when our present fixtures are replaced. Darlings Dearie, Tatiepo.....

It was very nice of Keith to write. He sounds like a person we will enjoy getting to know. They've told me that he had written to Earle with some local information.

Don't work too hard. I know moving is a chore, but I hope it will be worth it for you and Bet. We miss you both.

Love,

Dear Marge + Pat

Gods love + peace to you both.

Our prayers are still with you and your present Congregation as they start seeking a new pastor.

Have enclosed Sundays want-ads and a copy of TWN - See page 16.

Sacred Heart Hospital + University are currently eagerly looking for RN's - some part time.

Please keep me in your prayers - an opportunity has presented itself at work and I'm prayful that if its Gods will, I will be the new Infection Control Nurse at University Hospital.

I have ordered a copy of The Word + Table. The only Meth. Church that had a copy lost it when their library burned.

Do you have anything written on yours requirements for Holy Unions - we have some asking.

By the way - Georgie's lovers name is - TERRY - also our deacon. Larry is our builder. Well you have just managed to get through another of my messy notes Bless You Dr God's love + mine Steve

8/29/83

Jerry + Steve:

Hi, dear ones.

Have had services on my mind for days + planning for who will cover what. What I envision is a male/female team in worship each Sunday. Rationale: We are a church with lots of women, few men. Male presence is needed in the service. An equal sharing of the leadership in worship would dispel the idea that it's a "men's" or a "women's" church + would validate ministry of both.

My being present at evening service as well as a.m. service might enlarge group there. If we do a "more liturgical" a.m. service + a "more evangelical" evening service, we might hit two markets! The a.m. communion could use the typical UCC (Episcopal) liturgy + the evening use a "communion meditation" style. I would preach 3 Sunday mornings + one Sunday evening and do communion 3 evenings and one morning. I envision either of you doing the communion when I preach + one of you preaching when I do communion (or a lay person preaching, if that's appropriate).

(or alternate 2 and 2)

I am enclosing a sort of schedule (and we use this system at Baxter now, so that people are prepared in advance for their participation). Would you fill in the times when each of you feel you would be able + would like to participate, taking into consideration your work + personal life schedules. Would you then fill in the gaps with Angel + (I forget her name) the other woman deacon candidate, and any lay people (men in particular) who would do things well. I don't know, for example, if there are laity who are excellent preachers — given the opportunity — or those who lead prayer well.

Two of us would serve communion each sunday + ~~the~~ one the other ~~one~~ scheduled would acolyte, until we have so many in attendance that 4 of us would serve + 2 lay people would acolyte. I see us growing + the service would be much too long if one person tried to serve everyone. (When the need arose, we could use both cups as chalices + get two flat platters for the communion breads).

How does this sound to the two of you? Terry, ask George for me, if you will, if/when the Board named Sue this to be appropriate to the situation.

Re Installation - I am writing Art Fleschner + Gil Lincoln about participating. Art has already said yes to George on phone. I am contacting Gil by letter this week. He is Dist. Coord. for ~~So~~ Atlantic district + might be in the area, since they are getting Mobile going (also Jackson, Miss.) (That will give us MCC neighbors, too!) Art does nice things liturgically and might have some suggestions. If Gil is available, I'd like him to stay for evening service + do communion for us.

Re Thanksgiving - Boston + N.Y. both have Interfaith services that day (Wednesday eve.). We might do joint planning ē Dignity + invite both groups. Offering could go for AIDS work of some kind. We could follow the same plan for an inter-faith service during Gay Pride week.

Re Advent - We need to sit down ē music committee (if there is such) + talk abt. Christmas plans + special music, services, etc.

Re Halloween

What's been the usual Halloween? Has the church had a party? We had one at Ventura, had 50 people! (Didn't know what to do with them all!) "Amethyst Women" (Boston's gay women's alcohol program) + the gay A.A. both have "alcohol free" dances at local churches, and there are the usual costume balls (up here this is a national gay holiday!) and alcohol (or beer-wine) fund raisers.

I wonder if the moms in the church would be interested in a children's Halloween based on a UNICEF theme "Trick or treat for UNICEF" & a party at the church (or elsewhere) for the kids afterwards? Please show them the enclosed material + if they think it's a good idea, maybe we could work it up. There's an order blank for the collection boxes, etc. which can be sent off (I don't have all the addresses). We've had a lot of trouble up here about needles + razor blades in candies + even poisoned candy. This might be a happier, healthier alternative, + might make the kids feel like it's their church, too.

I don't mean to push — but the seasons

are really going to be coming quickly — Halloween, Thanksgiving & Christmas will be upon us almost as soon as I get there, & we need to have our planning well underway by the time I arrive.

As I mentioned to George, I found some material I had collected for a "confirmation" class. I'd like to begin on Sunday a.m. 9:30 meeting w the older children who are interested in church membership and teaching about 6-8 weeks of a real simplified confirmation/membership class & then take them in as members (even if it's only 1-2). I think I'd use "the Whole Church Body Book" with the kids, to explain how UCC works, and my material for kids on the apostle's creed to explain the statement of faith.

My head is full of plans, ideas & such, and as I told Pat, one night I was awake almost all night "working" at setting up my office & getting a planning calendar going. It's hard to be here when my head has already moved there.

Last night two of my student clergy from Providence who were recently licensed (Richard Matera + Phil Eberle) came up to Boston to say goodbye (along w one of my old Board members) + to share their progress in finding a church. They are lovers in a team ministry — one speaks Spanish, one is an excellent preacher, the other a fine liturgist; one is evangelical, the other catholic; one is a Midwestern farm boy, the other an eastern inner city type. Between them, they're a heck of a team — but churches are afraid they can't afford both of them. It's silly — because every pastor + his/her lover (just about) are a team ministry — not all our lovers seek licensing, however! I hope they find a church + I will miss them!

The 11th Boston is having a pot luck + farewell. The 18th Worcester is saying their good-byes to Pat. The 25th there is a reception after the service for both of us and we leave the 26th. We are in the countdown! A month from today we will be in Pensacola (actually, a month from

yesterday, if our timing is right – but certainly a month from today. We are packing. I have been filing old papers and trying to relabel my files as I go along.

Pat & I have talked, & we feel I need a month at least (or maybe 2) to get used to Pensacola, get settled in at the church, & get the house settled before I look for work. I have been working about 12 hrs. a day every day exc. Saturday for nearly 6 mos. and I am tired. With the move, I'll be arriving pretty worn out. It isn't fair to all of you to have that kind of pastor. I think I really need the time off from a second job to learn the needs of the congregation & the community. Between the church & Pat's job, we'll make it for a while. We won't need anything but our housing & food, and we feel the church is so important that we want to do it this way. If I really need to go to work, I will; but if the need is not there, I won't.

Didn't mean to handwrite all of this & make you read it — but it just got started & "like Topsy it just grew."

Let's see if we can get the October schedule set, at least; and then go for November later.

The first big check for our move came, so we could move if we had to on that. The second one will be our "first/last" rent & deposit. We have bought a few new things, but are trying not to do that. We have fallen in love with a bed, and may buy that to bring along, while I'm still earning big bucks!

My daughter has moved into her own apartment and is getting settled. She got a neat deal

September 10th,1983

Dear Rev. Marge,

Thank you for your letter which arrived yesterday. I could not help but notice that the letter was written on the 25th of August and postmarked the 7th of September. Dear heart, you must be a long way from the post office. Only kidding, I know you are extremely busy and I do not expect a reply to every letter. You, Pat, Boston, et.al, are in my prayers and writing to you helps me to feel that we are in close touch. It gives added strength during this interim period.

Steve stated that he had heard from you and that you outlined some great plans. Oh how we need that...Steve and Terry have done a fine job, but very few new programs have been put into effect. The board has been very much involved with maintaining the worship at an acceptable level. Probably far too much involvment. But when we agreed to the present plan that Steve and Terry act as co-coordinators, they knew at that time we would all be active in every phase of the church activity. I will be extremely glad when we can turn our full attention to the areas of administration. Sometimes it is hard for people to hear board members as individuals and speaking as a member of the congregation, rather than speaking as a board member. My personal opinion has been stated that I feel sometime like we treat the Sunday night service like a step-child. This may have caused a little 'brissling'. We really have no problems in this area and everything is going really quite smoothly. I do look forward to being able to talk with you. I am so happy that you plan to maintain office hours. This is something that I have missed in the past.

Your coming will allow so many things to happen. It is good because everyone needs what you have to offer in the way of talent. The church needs your leadership. If I may speak openly, I have had to be that person to whom decisions making seemed to fall. I guess I came by this as a matter of default. When the board elected me their president, I assume this started it. I am not making myself very clear and probably should have waited to talk to you later. However, it is weighing on me. It has casued no big problems, but sometime I feel as if I'm running the show, and I do not want that. I long for the day that more people say let's get this or that started, and DO IT!!!!!!It's easy to make plans, but getting them carried out is another thing. I have admitted that impatience is always close at hand with me...I must keep it under constant control. I so want us to do God's work to the best of our ability and with high, high standards. I intend to bring this subject up at the open board meeting on the 18th. Sometime I feel it would be so great to just come to church, take a seat in the back and just worship God. However, I know that one must do what one can...and only hope and pray that it does not appear as an ego trip. I worry about this. I think you will find that this is not my nature. I feel better having gotten this off my chest. I really feel it has caused a problem within myself only. I hope you will take this in the spirit it was written and not as a piece of 'humble pie'. I look forward to a close relationship with you where I can openly discuss things of this nature. I already feel we have the beginning of that type of communication. It is a two way street and I can only hope in time that you can look on me as someone you can share with too.

Now on to more things of importance!!!

There is a phone at the church already. We would like for you to tell us how you would like the system to work.'Call forwarding' is our cheapest way to go. We will be charged a commercial rate (higher) whether the phone is listed at the church or yourresidence. We had briefly discussed leaving it at the church with call forwarding to you home. What do you think?

The office is now complete. We hope you like it and can put it to extraordinary use...It was a labor of love, the best kind.

I was sorry to hear of your friends death. My main thought was how fortunate he was to have you with him. I often think about how different it seems when a true Christian dies compared to others. How great for us that we can celebrate the beginning of new life that our mortal death brings to us.

Rev. Marge, from the tone of your letter I was not sure whether you could come sooner if it were not having to wait for the necessary funds to arrive. If this is the case please call me. I am sure something can be worked out.

You haven't mentioned needing storage space for your personal household things. Are you planning to keep the truck loaded and try to find something right away? Either way, we will have a crew standing by for the unloading and any other help that we might give.

Steve and I have enjoyed hearing from Keith. I really don't think he will have any problems in finding employment in Pensacola. I have decided to sell the restaurant in Destin. The main reason being that it keeps Terry so tied down to its schedule. In the summer, Sunday is a big business day in this type of operation and Terry would find himself having to work some Sundays when his heart was really at church. It has been very profitable, but after 7 years of ownership, I think its time to move on.

Don't forget, call me if you can come sooner. We will do whatever we can to assist you and Pat.

Love to you both and regards to Keith.

George

Rev. Marge,

Bena and I just got home from church, we thought we would write you, by now you know that the vote to call you was yes 100%. We cant wait to see you both again and for you to be our Pastor. We both think P-cola has the potential to be a much larger church. There are so many people who were thrilled with you and Pat. Larry Bena and I have been telling just as many people as would listen about you and what great things you are going to do to & for MCC P-cola. Larry has played the tape of your sermon so many times you cant believe. You & Pat are both in our

PRAYERS. WE HOPE YOUR MOVE HERE WILL BE SAFE & VERY PLASENT. WE CAN'T FIND THE WORD TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE ENJOYDE YOUR MESSGAE. YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT "KISSING FROGES BACK TO BEING PRINCES" WAS WONDERFUL. SEE YOU IN OCTOBER. MAY GOD BESS AND KEPT YOU BOTH SAFE AND IN LOVE.

LOVE YOU BOTH!
BENA DIGGS
&
ANGEL PALMA

AUG, 14, 83
9:21 P.M.
BD
AD

7-28-83

Dear Marj,

I'm your brother with the puppet frog you met briefly at General Conference. We would very much like to assist you with your play.

Please send me a copy of the script and your proposed time & travel schedule. I need as much time as possible to arrange off from work. Please pray with me about that & finances to cover. Not knowing if I gave you the wrong address please write me at: 542 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL. 33528

Love
Ken Green

Lee

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING October 14, 1984

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola

***

AGENDA

- New Member Vote
- Pastor's Annual Report
- Clerk's Annual Report
- Treasurer's Annual Report
- Board of Pensions, UFMCC and SED tithes, CD's and outstanding bills
- Re-elect Pastor
- Elect Board Member(s)
- Elect Lay Delegate and Alternate Lay Delegate
- Pastoral Contract
- Budget
- Church Name Change
- Committee Reconstruction
- Thanksgiving Dinner

WISH SHEETS will be distributed between items 5 & 6 ; 10 minutes will be allocated to this project.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

PROPOSED BUDGET

October 15, 1984 to October 15, 1985

	Budget 1984	Actual 1984	Option I Budget 1985	Option 2 Budget 1985
TITHES, FELLOWSHIP	1800.00	1200.00	2000.00	1600.00
TITHES DISTRICT	432,00	240.00	1000.00	400.00
Pension Fund	-0-	-0-	216.00	216.00
PASTOR's SALARY	8400.00	4533.00	7200.00	5200.00
CONFERENCE TRAVEL	-0-	590.00	1707.00	1297.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	480.00	-0-	480.00	-0-
DELEGATE TRAVEL	-0-	150.00	500.00	500.00
MORTGAGE PAYMENT	6156.00	6000.00	6000.00	6000.00
REPAIRS/IMPROVEMENTS	-0-	594.00	400.00	200.00
UTILITIES	2100.00	1766.00	2000.00	1766.00
INSURANCE	300.00	395.00	395.00	395.00
CORPORATE FEE	10.00	10.00.	10.00	10.00
PROPERTY TAX	-0-	730.00	150.00	150.00
TELEPHONE	720.00	420.53	500.00	450.00
PRINTING/OFC. SUPPLIES	360.00	284.00	250.00	150.00
COMMUNION SUPPLIES	180.00	34.51	50.00	35.00
BANK CHARGES	-0-	36.07	35.00	35.00
FUND RAISING	-0-	909.58	500.00	500.00
DEBT RETIREMENT	-0-	1200.00	1250.00	1000.00
	20528.00	18724.00	25493.00	19796.00
LESS RENTAL INCOME	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00
	18128.00	16324.00	23093.00	18,596.00

TOTAL TITHES/OFFERINGS
FUND RAISING 22,000.00

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PASTOR'S REPORT

October-October 1983-1984

A year ago I came into Pensacola with energy, enthusiasm and many hopes. I have seen some of those hopes come to pass, have seen the enthusiasm wax and wane, and often seen the energy soar and at other times wonder if I would have enough energy to get through the day. I have learned and grown, and have learned that expectations are only viable if they are shared.

In the year that I have served as your pastor, we have had some very real difficulties. God has worked in some of those to produce good out of bad. Out of our church split, for example, God produced another MCC at Fort Walton. Our dispute over Inclusive Language has led to a deeper understanding of the nature of God for many of us, and a stronger bond of faith and friendship for many of us who remained with the church. We also discovered that our giving increased, because we saw the need, not because we saw any advantage in it.

The statistical report will be made by the Clerk,however, my statistics are simple: I have performed 6 baptisms; 6 Holy Unions, and 1 marriage; 2 blessings on relationships. We, quite happily, have had no deaths in our community. We have had relatively few people even admitted to the hospital, and so our visitation in that area has been minimal. We have done some jail visitation, but that has been hampered by our not being able to go in on regular clergy days, and because many other visiting times are during church hours. That is a goal we have set for this year, to get on the regular clergy visiting list at the jail.

As one of the few gay counselors in the area, I have found a very real opportunity to do some intensive counseling for a small number of people, some connected with the church, others not. In at least one of those, I believe, we were able to turn around a very serious suicidal attempt to a very productive end. Other counseling has centered around coming out issues and relationship issues. I believe there is more we can do in this area, but we need to get word out that such counseling is available. A goal for this year is to begin the "Caring Church" peer counseling program with those church members who are interested.

With three worship services, a good proportion of my 20 hours a week has been spent on preparation for those services. Forty percent of a pastor's time is supposed to be spent in preparation; I have been able to spend <u>less</u> than 20%. I hope this year to give more time to preparation, so that I will be preaching at both the Sunday morning and evening services.

At the Fellowship level, I serve on two important committees: The Credentials Committee and the Hymnody Committee. I have attended one major meeting of each of those committees, and have had the very real pleasure of seeing people licensed who came into the Fellowship and were student clergy when I was. We have also had the fun and hard work of finally deciding on nearly 500 hymns which we can get out to the Fellowship in text, as well as 100 which will be plated with the music for the new hymnal. That is a very real sense of accomplishment, of which you have been a part, since the <u>trial</u> of these hymns have included you.

Clerk's annual report, cont'd.

- The Clerk is in the process of establishing an official Membership Record sheet for each member, and will be contacting you in the case of missing or incomplete information. In the future, each new member will be requested to fill out one of these forms upon joining MCC Pensacola. This system should prove a helpful aid in the project of gathering all important information for immediate accessability in one location. A sample Membership Record form is available for viewing to any interested member.

- A non-member version of the above form will also be introduced; hopefully, this will enable us to keep in touch with people who are active in the church although they haven't yet requested membership, in order to keep them abreast of upcoming events and projects.

- WISH SHEETS will be distributed during today's meeting, at which time you will be requested to fill them out and return them to the Clerk (10 minutes will be set aside for this important project). This is your big chance to "wish upon a star' with MCC Pensacola playing the role of "Genie"!!!

- A major CHURCH LIFE SURVEY will be distributed at the 11/11/84 Board of Directors' Meeting. You will be requested to take this rather lengthy, comprehensive survey home, fill it out with maximum thought and attention at your convenience and return it to the Clerk by the next BOD Meeting, 12/9/84.

ACCOUNTING OF THE CLERK'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF MCC PENSACOLA DURING THE TIME SPAN COVERED BY THIS REPORT

- Served as Alternate Lay Delegate until May '84, when I became Lay Delegate upon Bob Bouch's resignation
- Originally elected Clerk on 1/8/84; reelected 4/29/84 after original BOD disbanded by District Coordinator
- Attended the following conferences:
  (1) SED Nov. '83, Jacksonville, as Alternate Lay Delegate
  (2) UFMCC Clergy Conference, March '84, Kansas City, Mo.
  (3) SED May. '84, Ft. Meyers, as Lay Delegate
- Served on the following committees:
  (1) Building (4) Fundraising
  (2) Finance (5) District Conference
  (3) SOP/Chairperson (6) Roundup
- Make up monthly schedule and attempt to ensure that all slots are filled
- Regular attendance at worship services with active participation (call, offering, prayers, acolyte, etc.); regular financial supporter; regular attendance at BOD, committee and Congregational Meetings; attendance at bible studies and rap groups, church dinners, Saturday Fellowships, flea markets and other church activities and projects as they occur.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brown

Pat Brown, Clerk

CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT 10/14/84

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola
Fall, 1984 Congregational Meeting

*****

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/15/84 - 10/15/84

Note: Due to the unavailability of accurate records, I have been unable to reconstruct definite membership numbers for the period 10/15/83 thru 4/8/84, when the membership rolls were last reviewed. That problem has since been alleviated, so that the activity and final counts listed here are now dependably accurate.

Resignations (8): Atkinson, Kathy; Bouch, Robert; Bryant, Marsha; Carpenter, Davis; Clinard, Debbie; Duncan, Ellen; Gray, Betty; Urie, Steve

Terminations (11): Blaumeuser, Liz; Clayton, Brenda; Dingley, JoAnn; Gibson, Lisa; Happle, Mary Ann; Hewitt, Lee; Mitchell, Ellen; Montemarano, Maria; Pickering, L.J.; Pool, Laurie; Stanfield, Louis

The above 11 people were placed on Inactive Status on 4/8/84 and removed from the membership rolls on 6/8/84.

Transfers (3): Douglas, Terry - FWB
Downing, George - FWB
Thompson, Richard - NOVA

Transfers into MCC Pensacola (2): Brown, Pat - Morningstar MCC
Ragona, Marge, Rev. - Boston MCC

New members (32):

Baughman, Jonita	Howland, Fran	Ragona, Elizabeth
Beasley, Margaret	Jones, Lorenzo	Ragona, Marge, Rev.
Brown, Pat	Marchu, Richard	Redman, Carole
Carpenter, Davis	McCarthy, Daniel	Richards, Judy
Cobb, Andrea	McCauley, Mary	Shaun, Rickie
Cook, Dottie	Miller, Victor	Smith, Don
Dempsey, Bobbie	Mitchell, Ellen	Stults, Joel
Dingley, JoAnn	Naso, Diane	Thompson, Richard
Haber, Cindy	Normandeau, Shiela	Tohosky, Robert
Hewitt, Lee	Patton, Rita	Urbaniak, Randy
Weyburn, Billy		Wood, Bill

Reactivated (2): Crane, Cleo 9/30/84
Davison, "Joe" 9/30/84

cont'd. next page...

Clerk's annual report, cont'd.

Inactive Status (~~14~~ 12):

Cahall, Ralph	Richards, Judy "J.D."
Cordle, Lorraine	Sheets, Greg
Crane, Cleo *	Stults, Joel
Davison, "Joe" *	Tohosky, Robert
Garner, Debbie	Urbaniak, Randy
Naso, Diane	Weyburn, Billy
Normandeau, Shiela	Wood, Bill

The above people were placed on Inactive Status on 9/9/84.
*Cleo Crane and "Joe" Davison were restored to Active Status on 9/30/84.

Non-Resident/Non-Voting Status (5):

Brown, Sam
Jones, Lorenzo "Paul" 9/9/84
Marchu, Richard 9/9/84
McCarthy, Daniel 9/9/84
Shaun, Rickie

Active Membership Status (29):

Allen, Naomi	Crane, Cleo	McCauley, Mary
Baker, Cassandra	Davison, "Joe"	Palma, Angel
Beasley, Margaret	Dempsey, Bobbie	Patton, Rita
Bergeron, Karen	Diggs, Bena	Ragona, Elizabeth
Boley, Charles	Haber, Cindy	Ragona, Marge, Rev.
Brown, Pat	Hauffe, Larry	Redman, Carole
Chadwick, Carol	Hicks, Debra Kay	Smith, Don
Cobb, Andrea	Howland, Fran	Walker, Natalie
Cook, Dottie	Miller, Victor	Whorton, Mary Kay
*Baughman, Jonita		Williamson, Vicki

* Jonita Baughman had been placed on Non-Resident/Non-Voting Status in Jan. '84 when she moved to West Palm Beach, FL.. She was restored to Active Status 8/21/84 per written request.

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP COUNT AS OF TODAY:

Active: 29 Inactive: 12
Non-Resident/Non-Voting: 5

*****

- An Attendance Register was introduced on 2/19/84 and can be found on the desk just inside the front door. Most of us are quite faithful about signing in each service; PLEASE try to remember to sign, as it saves a great deal of followup work.

  Beginning today, you will find a new, looseleaf version of the Attendance Register on the front desk -- the permanent one. Hallelujah!!!

cont'd. next page...

MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MCC PENSACOLA 9/9/84

***

BOD Members Present: Rev. Marge Ragona, Moderator
Pat Brown, Clerk
Bena Diggs, Treasurer

***

1. Immediately preceding the regular BOD meeting, the Board met in executive session to review the membership rolls. The following fourteen (14) people were placed on INACTIVE STATUS:

Ralph Cahall	Judy Richards
Lorraine Cordle	Greg Sheets
Cleo Crane	Joel Stults
"Joe" Davison	Robert Tohosky
Debbie Garner	Randy Urbaniak
Diane Naso	Billy Weyburn
Shiela Normandeau	Bill Wood

Three people were relegated to NON-RESIDENT/NON-VOTING STATUS: Lorenzo "Paul" Jones, Rick Marchu and Danny McCarthy.

The (14) placed on INACTIVE STATUS will be contacted by the clerk to determine their intentions regarding church membership. Unless active membership has been reestablished by 11/9/84, these people will be dropped from the rolls on that date.

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP COUNT AS OF TODAY: ACTIVE: 24 INACTIVE: 14
NON-RESIDENT/NON-VOTING: 5

2. PASTOR'S REPORT
   - A. A new membership class is now forming
   - B. Marge attended the UFMCC Hymnody Committee meeting in Dallas, Texas, over Labor Day weekend. She reports that it was a very satisfying and productive meeting, the results of which will be placed in our hands in the form of a new "Official UFMCC Hymnal" at the 1985 General Conference in Sacramento, CA.
   - C. Two Holy Unions were performed by Rev. Ragona in August
   - D. Two additional Holy Unions are "in the works"

3. CLERK'S REPORT
   - A. Joni Baughman was reinstated to active membership by written request 8/21/84
   - B. Terry Douglas and George Downing have been transferred into membership at MCC Fort Walton Beach - copy of transfer letter sent to Lee Carlton, S.E. Dist. Coord'r.
   - C. Pat contacted Larry Richards RE: UFMCC DIRECTORY info. Hopefully, MCC Pensacola's listing in the new, revised directory will contain correct information!
   - D. Sent letter to Burke Williams, Owner, Quiet Village, thanking him for continued support and verifying dates of MCC's 3rd. Annual Roundup
   - E. Congregational Meeting 10/14/84, immediately following morning service

Minutes BOD Meeting MCC P'Cola 9/9/84

***

4. TREASURER'S REPORT
   A. August general offering - $ 876.00
   B. We had to purchase a replacement, new air conditioner for the building next door: Cost $500--Payments $125 mo.
   C. Chad mailed in a payment on the church Gulf Power bill while she was away on vacation
   D. UFMCC and SED tithes paid thru July '84

5. There was some discussion re: conducting a membership drive during the Roundup. It was decided to have informative material available and members are asked to be prepared to discuss MCC with interested persons.

6. One Hundred (100) Roundup tickets have "disappeared": 60 from a local bar - 40 with a disgruntled church member. Angel will finance a second printing of tickets. ALL tickets from the first printing are to be considered invalid.

7. Ron is in the process of developing a music program for the church and has been introducing some interesting "new" things, such as a little Gregorian chant. Also, Ron occasionally plays his harp as background music during communion: a real treat. We need to check with him re: set meeting times for singers and musicians, so that the church building can be open and available to them.

8. Chad thanked everyone for the prayers she "felt" while away on vacation. It seems she missed us as much as we missed her!!!

9. Angel moved to adjourn; Chad seconded. Unanimous agreement to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brown

Pat Brown, Clerk

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MCC PENSACOLA 4/29/84

***

Voting members present: 24
Quorum : 9
Majority : 13

***

AGENDA: Elect new Interim Board of Directors

***

- Rev. Ragona opened the meeting with a prayer for guidance.

- Rev. Ragona presented us with a choice between electing (2) board members, a clerk and a treasurer, or electing those plus an additional council member, a total of (3). The unanimous decision was (2) by a "show of hands".

- Election of Clerk

  Nominations: Pat Brown - Accept
  "Joe" Davison - Decline
  Bena Diggs - Decline

  There being no further nominations from the floor, the vote was called and Pat Brown was elected Clerk by acclamation.

- Election of Treasurer

  Nominations: Ralph Cahall - Accept
  Bena Diggs - Accept

  No further nominations from floor. Ballot vote.

  Ralph: 10
  Bena : 13
  1 abstention
  24

  Bena Diggs is our new Treasurer.

There being no further business, Chad moved to adjourn; George seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brown, Clerk

MINUTES - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 1/8/83

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola

***

22 voting members present; majority 12

1- Rev. Ragona read the minutes from the 12/11/83 Board Meeting, which was unanimously approved as submitted.

2- Ralpn read the Treasurer's Report and distributed the 12/83 Financial Report. (Oct. & Nov. tithes are paid-we still owe $150 for Dec.) George moved that the report be accepted. Bob seconded. Unanimously accepted.

3- Acting Clerk, Pat Brown, asked for names and addresses of all new members for official membership list.

4- Pastor's Report: counseling load is extremely heavy, please call for appointment. Office Hours: Tues. 1-9, Wed. 1-5, Thurs. 1-5. The church phone and answering machine will be forwarded to Marge's apartment as of today. During the Christmas season Marge performed 8 services in 10 days!

5- George asked that anyone still having either calendars or calendar money please return it as soon as possible. We should have $720; we actually do have only $453 so far. $420 is the company's share of the money collected, anything over that is profit for us, and we may return any unsold calendars in full cartons only.
*There was $26 in quarters (calendar money) in the office, which has disappeared! Bob volunteered that he has $16 to turn in. Weshould have $280 profit; at present there is $225 missing. Please...

6- We have received a bill from T&G Publishers for Sign Language books ordered by Barbara Toller for a class. The bill is for $89.77. Angel tells us that the books were paid for at the rate of $15 each by the people participating in the class, and the money given to Barbara. Rev. Ragona has been asked to contact Rev. John Gill (Barbara's present pastor), requesting that he talk to Barbara re: taking care of this matter. --At the same time, Ms. Toller will be asked whether she has any idea as to the whereabout of the original tenant's lease for the building next door and the original mortgage papers on the church building.

7- There are several bags of aluminum cans outside ready to go to the redemption center. Little Joe has volunteered to take them away.

8- The scrap lumber is still sitting outside - J.D. has volunteered to take it to Micki (at Micki's request).

9- J.D. Richards and Larry Hauffe were presented to the B.O.D. for appointment as Deacond. Bob moved that Larry be accepted; Ralph seconded; vote unanimously in favor. Ralph moved that J.D. be accepted; Bob seconded; vote unanimously in favor.

10- Charles asked that aluminum can redemption be mentioned in our next newsletter. We have been making a considerable amount of money this way, and if everyone commits to doing a little bit of scavenging now that the weather is improving it will be to the church's advantage.

11- Rev. Ragona notes that Steve Urie has dome a superlative job as Student Clergy since the meeting between him and Marge in Dec.

12. The reason for calling this Congregation Meeting is for the purpose of seating a Clerk and an additional Council Member om the B.O.D. The question has been raised as to whether this is a legally constituted Congregational Meeting (whether members were properly notified). The meeting was announced in the monthly newsletter and was available here in the church building for 3 weeks; also, the upcoming meeting and it's purpose have been announced from the pulpit during each service for the past month. A "show of hands" was taken as to the legality of this Congregational Meeting, the vote being 21 yes, 1 abstention, 0 opposed. This meeting is legal.
One month ago, Pat Brown was appointed as Acting Clerk (off the B.O.D.); this means that at the present time this church does not have an official Clerk, putting us in violation of the UFMCC by-laws. There is an existing S.O.P. in the Church (Sec. 1, B2) requiring 6 months' membership before a member can run for office on the B.O.D. We ask that this rule be suspended for the business of this meeting, due to the fact that two of the members wishing to run for office have not been members for that amount of time. Some discussion ensued, after which Bena called the question. The wote was 21 yes, 1 abstention, 0 opposed. Sec. 1, B2 of the MCC Pensacola S.O.P.'s is suspended for the duration of this meeting, and is referred to the newly formed S.O.P. Committee for consideration.

*The above motion to suspend was made by Angel, seconded by Joni.

Three members have submitted letters of candidacy for the two openings on the B.O.D. -- D.J., Bena, and Pat Brown. These letters were read aloud to the congregation. There were no nominations from the floor. Each candidate said a few words. George moved that nominations be closed; all in favor. The vote: D.J.-9, Bena-12, Pat-21. Bena Diggs has been named to the B.O.D. as Council Member, Pat Brown as Clerk.

13- Our heater is still inoperable. The inspector is now requesting $17.50 for a permit to have the work performed on a heater that it turns out didn't need to be worked on in the first. We are not willing, since Mr. Bush (who originally did the work) is already legally licensed and should have taken care of it . Mr. Dyke is supposed to be contacting Mr. Bush once again. Rocky knows an inspector that she will attempt to consult.

There being no other business Angel moved to adjourn, Joni seconded - all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brown, Clerk

W I S H S H E E T

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola

*****

Have you ever sat in church and thought to yourself: "I WISH..."? MCC Pensacola wants to make your wishes for this church come true if at all possible. Please help by writing your wish(es) down, signing your name (optional), and returning this to the Clerk.

*****

I WISH THE CHURCH WOULD _____

_____

I WISH THE PASTOR WOULD _____

_____

I WISH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD _____

_____

I WISH THE STUDENT CLERGY WOULD _____

_____

I WISH THE DEACONS WOULD _____

_____

I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT _____

_____

I WISH _____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Phone _____

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PENSACOLA does hereby agree to employ as their Pastor, REVEREND MARJORIE RAGONA. The term of employment shall be for one year from the date of execution of this contract. This contract contains the following Articles and Provisions:

1. The salary is $600.00 per month to be paid weekly at $138.46 per week.

2. There will be one day off per week. That day to be selected by Reverend Ragona. However, that day may not be a Saturday or Sunday.

3. In the months that have a fifth Sunday; that Saturday and Sunday may also be taken off.

4. Three weeks paid vacation will be granted. For the purpose of determining vacation periods, a week is from Monday through Sunday. The three weeks may not be taken consecutively, but may be taken in a two week/one week order. Not more than one week is to be taken in conjuction with any conference date.

5. This contract can be revoked or cancelled by either party with a thirty day written notice from one party to the other.

6. In the hope that this will be a very long term arrangement, the provision is hereby made that this contract can be renewed on its anniversary date and every year thereafter.

Signed this _____ day of _____,1983 in the county of ESCAMBIA. State of FLORIDA.

_____
Witness

_____
Witness

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PENSACOLA.

_____
Accepted by: REV. MARJORIE RAGONA

September 1, 1983

Dear Steve:

You asked about Holy Union policy. My only policy is the one which is prevalent in the Fellowship: The couple must be living together for 6 months or in a relationship for at least one year. They must attend 3 counseling sessions with the person doing the H.U. or some person appointed by the pastor to do H.U. counseling. They must attend an MCC at least 3 times (preferably more) during the course of their counseling. I ordinarily charge $75.00 and there is an additional charge for the use of the church, depending upon the financial ability of the couple, ranging from $25.00 to $75.00. My own counseling process usually takes 5-6 hours, and I figure my time is worth the $75.00. Then, of course, there is the H.U. itself, which can take anywhere from 30 minutes to a full evening at the reception/party. I have enclosed my counseling protocol, and would be willing to sit down with you when we have a chance and go over the techniques which are included. I got a lot of my stuff from John Barbone and the rest from my own Marriage and the Family counseling courses at seminary. A number of MCC ministers have done a lot of stuff re H.U. -- John Barbone, Stan Harris, Dick Mickley among others. I have Mickley's Masters' thesis which was done on same-sex relationships and you are welcome to read that. One of the women ministers in Florida had worked up a counseling workbook for H.U.'s but I don't remember her name. I'll check around for you.

When I do H.U. counseling I look for a number of things -- obviously sincerity is one. Secondly, are they serious about the H.U. Does it mean something to them -- do they have a real understanding of how H.U. and marriage differ. (One of my profs would have said, "Do they have a theology of Holy Union?) Third: Do their long range plans include each other -- joint ownership, business, or home planning. Can you see in their plans some inclusion of each other over the long haul. How similarly do they look at life -- do they share values. Do they respect each other, and is the other a truly valid person to them.

I must have done in excess of 100 H.U.'s from N.Y. to California and back, and I would say that only about 4 have failed, and those were mainly among women who were heavily into roles. Other couples have had some problems, but have been much more willing to go through counseling to help sort out their problems. I don't save them all, but a lot of them are saved by counseling. The first year is the hardest - of course, and then they are usually off and running.

Hope this helps.

Mauge

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MCC PENSACOLA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble

Section 1: Procedural Matters

A. To change Standard Operating Procedures page 1

B. Board of Directors and Conference Delegates " 1

C. Membership " 3

D. Expending Funds " 3

E. Staff " 4

F. Miscellaneous " 4

G. Operation of Committees " 5

H. Deacons Fund " 6

I. Congregational Meeting " 6

Attendance at the S.O.P's Workshop

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MCC PENSACOLA

PREAMBLE:

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola, being a non-profit organization in the state of Florida is a member church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) and adheres to the By-laws of that organization. ~~Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola is a Christ-orientated church.~~

Section 1: Procedural Matters

A. To change Standard Operating Procedures (S.O.P's).

1. Suggested changes, by members, must be submitted in writing and signed, to the Board of Directors, for consideration at the next regular scheduled Congregational meeting. Changes to be received no less than thirty (30) days in advance of meeting.
2. Any changes under consideration must be preceded by a workshop held at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled or called congregational meeting. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to schedule and inform members of said meeting.

B. Board of Directors and Conference Delegates

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee of, no less than five (5) members, to present to the congregation a slate of candidates for conference delegates and vacancies on the board. The committee shall be composed of both Board members and congregational members who are not on the board. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the business meeting.
2. ~~To be elected to the Board or as a Conference Delegate, a~~ person must ~~have been~~ an active member of MCC Pensacola ~~for at least six (6) months.~~ As duly elected representatives of the congregation, conference delegates and board members are responsible to the membership in good standing. Conference delegates and board members should attend worship services regularly. In order to be aware of congregational opinions, needs, and interests, attendance of other functions is also strongly recommended.

3. The Board shall elect a church treasurer, a church clerk, and a Board Vice-Moderator from among board members. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as moderator of meetings if the Moderator (Pastor) is absent, or if there is no Moderator (a pastoral vacancy exists).

4. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly. These reguarly scheduled meetings shall be open to members and friends of the church. The board may hold additional meetings at its discretion which may be open or closed. However, any actions decided upon at a closed board meeting must be ratified at the next regular scheduled open board meeting.

5. Any board member who misses ~~three (3) consecutive~~ regular monthly meetings may be subject to removal and replacement by the remainder of the board.

6. The term of office for conference delegates shall be one (1) year.

7. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings will include the attendance of all church officers (e.g. board members, deacons, student clergy, committee chairpersons).

8. Elected officials of the church will take office at the conclusion of the congregational meeting at which they were elected and serve until the conclusion of the congregational meeting at which their successor is elected.

9. The Board of Directors will be responsible for reviewing the membership rolls. ~~Any removals must be ratified at a regularly called congregational meeting.~~

10. The minutes of ~~the~~ Board of Directors meetings will be posted on the church bulletin board and distributed to the board members on the Sunday prior to the board meeting. ~~In lieu of reading the minutes aloud at the board meeting.~~

11. The agenda for the up-coming board meeting will be posted on the church bulletin board and distributed to the board members on the Sunday prior to the board meeting.

12. A member, or friend of the church wishing to address a congregational meeting, ~~special meeting, or board meeting~~ will be permitted to do so. Friends of the church may not make motions ~~and must speak only to agenda items~~.

C. Membership A statement of faith prior to

1. ~~Applications for~~ membership in the church must be submitted in writing to the pastor/worship coordinator. Upon his/her recommendation and after the completion of a satisfactory course of instruction as ~~suggested~~ required in the UFMCC By-laws, membership will be ~~granted~~ open to the applicant(s), ~~by the Board of Directors~~. ~~At which time the~~ new member(s) ~~shall~~ will be be presented to the congregation at worship service

2. No member(s) shall be taken into membership in the two (2) weeks prior to a congregational meeting, in order to fulfill the requirements of UFMCC by-laws. Article 9, Section C, line 27.

3. The policy regarding non-monetary gifts to the church shall be expanded to require that all items given to the church must be approved in advance for acceptance by the Board of Directors. All items given without prior approval may be either accepted or disposed of at the discretion of the Board of Directors. This procedural matter is not to be misconstrued to apply to perishable items for routine use or consumption, such as foodstuffs, refreshments, or flower arrangements.

D. Expending Funds

1. There shall be no expenditures of church funds other than for fixed budget items, until such expenditures have been approved at a Board of Directors meeting. In the event of an emergency expenditure, the Board may be called into special session; however, a telephone poll of the Board for a vote on approving expenditures shall be acceptable if all members of the Board are contacted and ~~all votes are in the affirmative~~ 50% + 1 in affirmative

2. The Board of Directors of MCC Pensacola shall not disburse any non-budgeted or designated funds in excess of $250.00 except in emergency without the consent of 50% plus one(1) of the active membership present at a congregational or special meeting, in accordance with Article 5, Section D, Subsection 2 (Board of Directors) of the UFMCC by-laws.

3. The bank ~~authorization~~ cards for all accounts will reflect the signatures of ~~the Board of Directors~~ 3 members and the Pastor/ ~~Worship Coordinator~~ and require two(2) signatures on a check.

TREASURER (3) NO members of household/ in relationship

4. The church fiscal year and the church budget shall run from October 1 through September 30 of the following year.

5. For all District Conferences (usually two(2) per year), all General Conferences (usually one(1) every two(2) years), the pastor/worship coordinator attending will have all his/her registration fees, travel ~~expenses~~ allowed, housing expenses, and a fifteen dollar(15.00) per diem food expenses(when not included in the conference fees) and the Delegates expenses paid for by the church ~~when funds are available~~.

6. CHURCH FUNDS-~~Should the need arise,~~ the church ~~may~~ shall establish ~~funds such as~~ a Deacon's fund, to assist those in need in the congregation or the community at large.

7. SPECIAL OFFERINGS-The Board of Directors may also collect special offerings for particular projects, (Special offerings are taken in addition to the regular collections, not as a replacement for them.) One hundred per cent (100%) of the ~~undesignated~~ funds from these special collections is automatically considered to be designated for the named project(s) and shall be placed into the appropriate fund.

8. The Board of Directors will not loan money to anyone, for any purpose, from the General Fund. ~~Or cash any personal checks.~~ Per diem cashing at discretion of treasurer + one Board member established

E. Staff

1. The pastor/worship coordinator will establish a policy and procedures for Deacons and Student Clergy in accordance with the UFMCC by-laws. Article 4.

F. Miscellaneous The person preparing the bulletin

1. The Board of Directors will see that the total attendance and offering figures for the previous Sunday plus the total to date for the month will be posted in the Sunday bulletins.

2. All financial records of the church will be kept for three (3) years, with the exception of cancelled checks, which will be kept seven(7) years.

3. The ~~Board of Directors shall~~ treasurer be responsible for publishing a monthly financial statement and for providing an audit of the church books by a special audit committee on a yearly basis at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

no minus balances

4. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold and/or distributed for consumption at church functions on church property.

5. The vacation policy for the pastor/worship coordinator is as follows:

Years of Service	Annual vacation
8mos.-1 year	* 1 week
1 year-5 years	2 weeks

*Each week is a seven day calendar week, including five(5) work days and two(2) days off.

The vacation for the pastor/worship coordinator will begin on the first(1) Sunday following their beginning employ with the church. Vacation must be taken during vacation year. Carryover is not permitted.

6. No more than one(1) week vacation shall be taken in connection with conferences, except by special permission of the Board of Directors.

7. The Pastor/worship coordinator is responsible for the issuance of keys.

G. Operation of Committees

1. Every committee of the church will have a member of the Board of Directors assigned to them to serve as a liaison officer to facilitate communication and cooperation between the Board of Directors and the various church committees.

2. Preferably the Chairperson, or if need be, the Assistant Chairperson or other representative of each comittee should be present at each monthly board meeting in order to submit his/her committee report and answer any questions regarding the work of the committee.

3. All committee Chairpersons must coordinate with the pastor/worship coordinator a fixed monthly meeting date for his/her committee. If the meeting date, place, or time, is changed for any reason, the pastor/worship coordinator and all members of the committee must be informed of the change with as much prior notice as is possible.

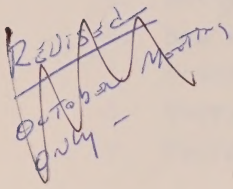
4. All committees must annually (at their December meeting) review all their existing procedural matters and report the result of this review to the Board of Directors for approval at the Board meeting in January.

H. Deacons Fund

1. The Board of Directors will establish a policy for the Deacons fund in connection with the pastorial staff.

I. Congregational meeting

1. There will be two(2) congregational meetings a year. One in April and one in October. The April meeting will be mainly for election of board vacancies and conference delegates. The October meeting will be mainly for approval of the next years budget.



ATTENDANCE AT THE S.O.P'S WORKSHOP

JANUARY 31, 1982:

1. Barbara Toller
2. Ralph Cahall
3. Betty Gray
4. Bob Bouch
5. Frankie Toller
6. Terry Gray
7. George Davis
8. Lisa Gibson
9. Angel palma
10. Micki Cordell
11. Debbie Garner
12. Scott Gray
13. Scott Stetson

February 3, 1982:

1. Barbara Toller
2. Betty Gray
3. Bob Bouch
4. Terry Gray
5. George Davis
6. Angel Palma
7. Lisa Gibson
8. Charles Boley
9. Grady Paulk
10. Frankie Toller
11. Scott Gray
12. Scott Stetson

February 27, 1982:

1. Rev. Arthur Fleschner
2. Barbara Toller
3. Bob Bouch
4. Ralph Cahall
5. Frankie Toller
6. Angel Palma
7. Lisa Gibson
8. Karen Bergeron

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

July 21, 1982

Metropolitan Community Church
POB 8087
Pensacola, FL 32505

Dear Friends:

The Board of Elders, at our June meeting in Dallas, voted unanimously to approve your Standard Operating Procedures. They are in conformity with U.F.M.C.C. By-laws.

We appreciate your faithfulness in bringing this matter to our attention.

God bless you in your ministry.

Grace & Peace,

Reverend Elder Nancy Wilson
Clerk, Board of Elders

NW/fkz

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MCC PENSACOLA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble

Section 1: Procedural Matters

A. To change Standard Operating Procedures page 1

B. Board of Directors and Conference Delegates " 1

C. Membership " 3

D. Expending Funds " 3

E. Staff " 4

F. Miscellaneous " 4

G. Operation of Committees " 5

H. Deacons Fund " 6

I. Congregational Meeting " 6

Attendance at the S.O.P's Workshop

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MCC PENSACOLA

PREAMBLE:

Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola, being a non-profit organization in the state of Florida is a member church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) and adheres to the By-laws of that organization. Metropolitan Community Church of Pensacola is a Christ orientated church.

Section 1: Procedural Matters

A. To change Standard Operating Procedures (S.O.P's).

1. Suggested changes, by members, must be submitted in writing and signed, to the Board of Directors, for consideration at the next regular scheduled Congregational meeting. Changes to be received no less than thirty (30) days in advance of meeting.
2. Any changes under consideration must be preceded by a workshop held at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled or called congregational meeting. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to schedule and inform members of said meeting.

B. Board of Directors and Conference Delegates

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee of, no less than five (5) members, to present to the congregation a slate of candidates for conference delegates and vacancies on the board. The committee shall be composed of both Board members and congregational members who are not on the board. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the business meeting.
2. To be elected to the Board or as a Conference Delegate, a person must have been an active member of MCC Pensacola for at least six (6) months. As duly elected representatives of the congregation, conference delegates and board members are responsible to the membership in good standing. Conference delegates and board members should attend worship services regularly. In order to be aware of congregational opinions, needs, and interests, attendance of other functions is also strongly recommended.

3. The Board shall elect a church treasurer, a church clerk, and a Board Vice-Moderator from the board members. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as moderator of meetings if the Moderator (Pastor) is absent, or if there is no Moderator (a pastoral vacancy exists).
4. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly. These reguarly scheduled meetings shall be open to members and friends of the church. The board may hold additional meetings at its discretion which may be open or closed. However, any actions decided upon at a closed board meeting must be ratified at the next regular scheduled open board meeting.
5. Any board member who misses three (3) consecutive regular monthly meetings may be subject to removal and replacement by the remainder of the board.
6. The term of office for conference delegates shall be one (1) year.
7. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings will include the attendance of all church officers (e.g. board members, deacons, student clergy, committee chairpersons).
8. Elected officials of the church will take office at the conclusion of the congregational meeting at which they were elected and serve until the conclusion of the congregational meeting at which their successor is elected.
9. The Board of Directors will be responsible for reviewing the membership rolls. Any removals must be ratified at a regularly called congregational meeting.
10. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings will be posted on the church bulletin board and distributed to the board members on the Sunday prior to the board meeting, in lieu of reading the minutes aloud at the board meeting.
11. The agenda for the up coming board meeting will be posted on the church bulletin board and distributed to the board members on the Sunday prior to the board meeting.
12. A member, or friend of the church wishing to address a congregational meeting, special meeting, or board meeting will be permitted to do so. Friends of the church may not make motions and must speak only to agenda items.

C. Membership

1. Applications for membership in the church must be submitted in writing to the pastor/worship coordinator. Upon his/her recommendation and after the completion of a satisfactory course of instruction as suggested in the UFMCC by-laws, membership will be granted to the applicant(s) by the Board of Directors. At which time the new member(s) shall be presented to the congregation.
2. No member(s) shall be taken into membership in the two (2) weeks prior to a congregational meeting, in order to fulfill the requirements of UFMCC by-laws. Article 9, Section C, line 27.
2. The policy regarding non-monetary gifts to the church shall be expanded to require that all items given to the church must be approved in advance for acceptance by the Board of Directors. All items given without prior approval may be either accepted or disposed of at the discretion of the Board of Directors. This procedural matter is not to be misconstrued to apply to perishable items for routine use or consumption, such as foodstuffs, refreshments, or flower arrangements.

D. Expending Funds

1. There shall be no expenditures of church funds other than for fixed budget items, until such expenditures have been approved at a Board of Directors meeting. In the event of an emergency expenditure, the Board may be called into special session; however, a telephone poll of the Board for a vote on approving expenditures shall be acceptable if all members of the Board are contacted and all votes are in the affirmative.
2. The Board of Directors of MCC Pensacola shall not disburse any non-budgeted or designated funds in excess of $250.00 without the consent of 50% plus one(1) of the active membership present at a congregational or special meeting, in accordance with Article 5, Section D, Subsection 2 (Board of Directors) of the UFMCC by-laws.
3. The bank authorization cards for all accounts will reflect the signatures of the Board of Directors and the Pastor/ Worship Coordinator and require two(2) signatures on a check.

4. The church fiscal year and the church budget shall run from October 1 through September 30 of the following year.

5. For all District Conferences (usually two(2) per year), all General Conferences (usually one(1) every two(2) years), the pastor/worship coordinator attending will have all his/her registration fees, travel expenses, housing expenses, and a fifteen dollar(15.00) per diem food expenses(when not included in the conference fees) and the Delegates expenses paid for by the church when funds are available.
6. CHURCH FUNDS-Should the need arise, the church may establish funds such as a Deacon's fund, to assist those in need in the congregation or the community at large.
7. SPECIAL OFFERINGS-The Board of Directors may also collect special offerings for particular projects, (Special offerings are taken in addition to the regular collections, not as a replacement for them.) One hundred per cent (100%) of the unmarked funds from these special collections is automatically considered to be designated for the named project(s) and shall be placed into the appropriate fund.
8. The Board of Directors will not loan money to anyone, for any purpose from the General Fund, or cash any personal checks.

E. Staff

1. The pastor/worship coordinator will establish a policy and procedures for Deacons and Student Clergy in accordance with the UFMCC by-laws. Article 4.

F. Miscellaneous

1. The Board of Directors will see that the total attendance and offering figures for the previous Sunday plus the total to date for the month will be posted in the Sunday bulletins.
2. All financial records of the church will be kept for three (3) years, with the exception of cancelled checks, which will be kept seven(7) years.
3. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for publishing a monthly financial statement and for providing an audit of the church books by a special audit committee on a yearly basis at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

4. Alcoholic beverages can not be sold and/or distributed for consumption at church functions on church property.

5. The vacation policy for the pastor/worship coordinator is as follows:

Years of Service	Annual vacation
8mos.-1 year	* 1 week
1 year-5 years	2 weeks

*Each week is a seven day calendar week, including five(5) work days and two(2) days off.

The vacation for the pastor/worship coordinator will begin on the first(1) Sunday following their beginning employ with the church. Vacation must be taken during vacation year. Carryover is not permitted.

6. No more than one(1) week vacation shall be taken in connection with conferences, except by special permission of the Board of Directors.

7. The Pastor/worship coordinator is responsible for the issuance of keys.

G. Operation of Committees

1. Every committee of the church will have a member of the Board of Directors assigned to them to serve as a liaison officer to facilitate communication and cooperation between the Board of Directors and the various church committees.

2. Preferably the Chairperson, or if need be, the Assistant Chairperson or other representative of each comittee should be present at each monthly board meeting in order to submit his/her committee report and answer any questions regarding the work of the committee.

3. All committee Chairpersons must coordinate with the pastor/worship coordinator a fixed monthly meeting date for his/her committee. If the meeting date, place, or time, is changed for any reason, the pastor/worship coordinator and all members of the committee must be informed of the change with as much prior notice as is possible.

4. All committees must annually (at their December meeting) review all their existing procedural matters and report the result of this review to the Board of Directors for approval at the Board meeting in January.

H. Deacons Fund

1. The Board of Directors will establish a policy for the Deacons fund in connection with the pastorial staff.

I. Congregational meeting

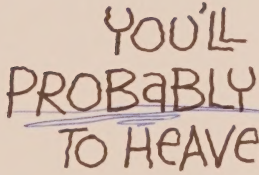
1. There will be two(2) congregational meetings a year. One in April and one in October. The April meeting will be mainly for election of board vacancies and conference delegates. The October meeting will be mainly for approval of the next years budget.

Thanks
FOR
BEING SO
NICE...
Tom Wilson

Dearest Marge & Pat,

I can never tell you how much Nicki & I appreciate your love & concern during this time of distress. Because of your prayers & support she is well on her way to recovery. I appreciate the strong hearts & love you extended my way. You've helped to make a difficult time better. Thanks again.

Love, Nicki & Bob



ZIGGY ®
© Universal Press Syndicate MCMLXXVIII

Forget me not ®

text
©American Greetings Corp. MCMLXXVIII

TU 2906-6D

May 4, 1984

Dear Lee - Report to the Board of Home Missions re: Pensacola MCC

*****

I have been at MCC Pensacola for seven months and have had an opportunity to get to know the church and its people in some dept during that time.

Most recently we have had a major crisis which originally centered around the issue of Inclusive Language, but which really had its roots in a far deeper group of issues. I will try to sort them out and deal with thee one by one:

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

MCC Pensacola had never used, nor been educated to the issue of, inclusive language prior to my arrival. This was not entirely unexpected, since I had been told there might be some resistance when I had spoken with the pulpit committee at Toronto. I had been assured that most people were educable, and if I did the educational task and was patient, people would 'come around'. Unfortunately, there were people who decided to begin an undercover counter-movement.

One of the main persons so engaged is a young man who undertook to 'explain' my views to a Board member who had been absent from the church because of illness and personal problems for over two months. This young man has difficulty relating to people who are different from himself, and has difficulty holding a job because this problem. At one point, I had to order him to put a large hunting knife back into his car, which he had brought into the church as his way of solving an incident involving an interracial couple in the church. He had been instrumental in the breakup of this couple, primarily because he did not approve of his friend seeing a black person. This young man has done a great deal of the 'explaining' of feminism and inclusive language to other absent church members as well. His letter of resignation is appended so that you can see how well he understands and is able to be of help.

As you know, the involved Board member called a secret meeting (secret from me and two other Board members) of some eleven persons, nine of whom were members. I had been invited by this Board member to attend such a meeting, to be held on an evening during which a regularly scheduled church function was to occur, and I expressed a willingness to attend, but that this meeting needed to be scheduled on a different night because of my commitment to the church function. They elected to hold the meeting in my absence, during which three things happened:

1. A vote of confidence in my ministry was taken and they agree I had a valid ministry at MCC Pensacola;
2. They expressed a desire that we stop using inclusive language, or at least hold one service not in inclusive language;
3. They intended to invite Rev. Lee Carlton to come to Pensacola at their group's expense, not having asked the rest of the chuch for their views, permission or willingness to fund this visit. --They did not communicate this to me at the time.

*****

I had found out from an ex church member (who had withdrawn her membership because of fear of the N.I.S. long before I arrived) about the clandestine meeting, but did not know the location. The location was accidentally revealed to one of our woman deacons, who was asked if she was going to the "meeting at Andrea's house". She shared this knowledge with me at a scheduled rap session which I lead. Following the rap, Pat and I went to the secret meeting. I shared with them the fact that the Elders Task Force On Inclusive Language report had been made to the General Conference at Houston in 1981, had passed and was being implemented (at varying rates of speed) in all MCC's. I explained my commitment to inclusive language dating back to the Washington, D.C. 1976 General Conference when I had been one of the authors of the resolution on inclusive language which had also passed.

I pointed out that there had been people in MCC working on this issue since 1975, so it was not a new issue in our churches and that the Task Force had pretty much done the definitive work - had sent questionaires out for grass roots input, etc. They denied ever having been informed of same by the prior worship coordinator. I explained that this was also in part the responsibility of the lay delegate to General Conference, who should have shared information with them about the issues as they arose. They denied that he had ever reported on same. I pointed out that the delegate (a Board member) was listed in the record of the General Conference and that either he voted for the report (which passed unanimously) or he was absent from the floor during the vote. His letter of resignation is also appended. Some church members reported that the prior worship coordinator had returned from General Conference with the information that the Elders Task Force Report had failed, been returned to committee for four years, and that 'inclusive language was the work of the devil anyway".

Rev. Carlton was contacted and asked to come to Pensacola without my knowledge. I was informed one hour before Sunday AM, April 1, service that Lee was coming April 3, and I was to deliver that work at the announcement period of the service. I did not do this, but required members to stay after service and shared information about the secret meeting and Lee's upcoming visit. Rev. Carlton came to Pensacola and upheld the Elders Task Force on Inclusive Language as normative for UFMCC. The group which had asked Lee to come to Pensacola were so irate at this that most of those who had given the Board member who was a travel agent checks toward their portion of Lee's travel stopped payment on their checks and he is now looking to the church for reimbursement. This is not an expense which the church accepted and it has no intention of paying.

THE BOARD

Prior to Lee's visit, he communicated to me his intention to bring Pensacola's Board of Directors into compliance with District S.O.P.'s. I had increased the five member Board which I found to seven for a number of reasons:

1. My perception that the current Board represented mainly themselves and not the majority of the church and I wanted input from more than one perspective;

2. A current Board member elected in November would not resign from the Board but neither would she do the appointed tasks (i.e. the Clerk's) for which she had been elected. We badly needed a Clerk. We added Pat Brown as Clerk and Bena Diggs as member at an irregular Special Congregational Meeting (notification of which was not mailed, but hand delivered at services, unintentionally eliminating some tltally inactive members who should have been removed for inactivity previously but had not). We had an attendance well over the required quorum of eight. Both of these members were elected (Pat by a vote of 21 yes, 1 abstention and Bena by a vote of 12-9-1 abstention). -Some Board members perceived that I had asked Rev. Carlton to cut the Board. I knew nothing of the District S.O.P.'s, being new to the District and there being no copy of same on file in the church. Lee has since remedied this.

3. We were preparing for charter and it would be a good time to break in new members of a full chartered church board complement.

In preparation for the Congregational Meeting (held this past Sunday, April 29) we checked back into the minutes to find when the previous Board had been elected and, to our astonishment, we discovered that this Board had been elected 18 months previously (a violation of the By-Laws) and had we not held this Congregational Meeting, would have held office for 24 months until an election since, as far as I knew, they were not scheduled to come up for reelection until next November. I had assumed, foolishly, that they had been newly reelected when I came to Pensacola in October, since on vacant seat had been filled in November atthe regularly scheduled congregational meeting. I did not realize they had already served out their year's term.

FINANCIAL STATUS

When I arrived, records were all over the church in various boxes and the file cabinet was empty. It took months to find financial and other records. However, members address records were readily available in the church. The existent Board was very reluctant to turn over records and may not still have turned over all records. Today again, information has come to light that astounds me:

1. The first mortgage on the building for 10 years is on $48,500. At the end of the 10 years, paying $500 a month ($60,000), the church will still owe in excess of $45,000.
2. The second mortgage is held by the original five Board members, each of whom is owed roughly $1,000. That second mortgage comes due in January. Church members were unaware until two months ago about that payment coming due, were unaware until this week as to whom it was owed, and are now being threatened by at least one ex-Board member that, if they do not have the money they will lose the building to the five investors (at least two of whom are no longer church members and one has shown intent to resign). This $5,000 had been understood by church members to be a "balloon payment".

2. A current Board member elected in November would not resign from the Board but rather would she do the appointed tasks (i.e. the Clerk's) for which she had been elected. We badly needed a Clerk. We added Pat Brown as Clerk and Jana Lange as member at an Irregular Special Congregational Meeting (notification of which was not mailed, but hand delivered at services, unintentionally eliminating some likely inactive members who should have been removed for inactivity previously but had not). We had an attendance well over the requiren quorum of eight. Both of these newcomers elected (Pat by a vote of 22 yes, 1 abstention and Jana by a vote of 12-0-1 unanimous). Some Board members perceived that I had asked Pat's election to cut the Board. I knew nothing of the District S.P.C.'s being new to the Waterford and there being no copy of bans on file in the church. We has since remedied this.

3. We were preparing for charter and it would be a good time to break in new members of a full chartered church board complement.

In preparation for the Congregational meeting (held this past Sunday, April 29) we checked back into the minutes to find when the previous Board had been elected and, to our astonishment, we discovered that this Board had been elected in spring previously (a violation of the by-laws) and had we not held this Congregational meeting, would have held office for 24 months until an election arose, no fair on I know. They were not solicitous to come up for reelection until next November. I had assumed, foolishly, that they had been newly reelected when I came to Tennessee in October, since on vacant seat had been filled in November at the regularly scheduled congregational meeting. I did not realize they had already served out their year's term.

CHURCH STATUS

When I arrived, records were all over the church in various boxes and the file cabinet was empty. It took months to find financial and other records. However, members address records were recently available in the church. The existant board was very reluctant to turn over records (as may not still have burned over all records. Today again, information has come to light that astounds me:

1. The first mortgage on the building for $9 years is $30,000. At the end of the 10 years, having paid $300 a month ($36,000), the amount will still owe $6,000.

2. The annual meetings is held by the original five board members each of whom is owed roughly $1,000. What annual meetings come up in January. Current members were unaware until two months ago about that payment (some one, who's unaware until this week) as to whom it was owed, and are now being threatened by at least one ex-board member that, if they do not have the money with them during the building to the five investors (at least two of whom are no longer church members and one has moved) to return. This $5,000 had been understood by current members to be a donation payment".

In ten years, the entire sum of $45, 720 comes due for payment, but the church has never been told this, never having seen these figures until the former Treasurer handed over the records today. Apparently, the building was purchased by the five member Board acting as trustees for the church prior to a congregational meeting at which the purchase was presented as a fait accompli and despite questions about the wisdom of the purchase and the objection of some church members, all they were told was "what are you going to do about. It's done".

These five Board members had agreed among themselves to make up any difference between offerings and the mortgage payment without either telling church members when this happened, or asking the church's assistance in meeting this obligation. With the withdrawal of three of these Board members, it may be difficult for the church to meet the mortgage payment without cutting the Pastor's salary.

Pensacola, apparently, has always been a difficult church to administer, and there have been an assortment of church fights, many centered on flagrant violations of the by-laws and once by the previous worship coordinator and some of the same five Board members wanting to pull out of MCC and become a "Metro Christian Church"--one of the reasons being that UFMCC would (according to the By Laws) be the successor 501C3 corporation to receive the building should MCC Pensacola ever fold or be disbanded.

OTHER PROPERTY

We have had to change the locks recently because these same Board members are now entering the building surreptitiously and removing property which had been announced loudly as "given" to the church, but which is now being claimed were "loaned". Another member is asking for return even of the chalice dedicated to his ex-lover's mother's memory! The one previously removed came in the night I arrived and took the six chairs she had bought for the church in a chair drive.

IMPRESSIONS

The problem has not been inclusive language but power. Inclusive language was merely a convenient screen to mask the playing out of an impressive power game, in which some reasonably wealthy church members gained great ego satisfaction by "wheeling and dealing" and were abetted in same by the previous worship coordinator. Unfortunately, the Board members overestimated the size and voting of their following. They were unable, for example, to get sufficient signatures to bring a petition to remove the Pastor, and admitted they had no grounds other than "inclusive language". When the vote was held for the new Board this past Sunday, only five persons were present to vote with them. The remainder of the 24 members present were either actively supporting the Pastor (and inclusive language) or were neutral. Both Pat Brown (Clerk) and Bena Diggs (new Treasurer) were reelected to the Board; Pat was unopposed and elected by acclamation, Bena by a vote of 13-10-1 abstention. Thirteen was the majority needed to elect. Bena was opposed by the previous Treasurer, Ralph Cahall, part of the five member Board who originally purchased the building.

I frankly cannot say what the future of Pensacola MCC holds. A large majority of the current membership actively support the Pastor and have shown a deepening level of financial commitment, with offerings remaining at nearly the previous level, although coming from different persons: the morning worship is more reflective of the old leadership, while the Sunday evening and Wednesday congregations are reflective of the new leadership. It is interesting that the Sunday evening offerings are higher than Sunday A.M. and the Wednesday offerings have more than doubled over its previous level.

Since Rev. Ragona has secured secular employment in Pensacola there is no doubtthat she will stay and help rebuild the church. There is real doubt as to whether Pensacola can, at this time, even maintain minimum District standards as a Mission, although this is not because offerings or attendance are not high enough to pay current expenses, but because the previous Board has so structured the second mortgage that it is necessary that the church "buy them out" by January 7, 1985, or risk losing the building into which $10,000 has already been sunk. Whether or not we still intend to keep a building which will cost us $70,000 and on which we will still owe nearly the entire $48,000 of the original mortgage is another question to be decided by the church in the future.

The current membership is 40 active members, three non-resident members and 11 who were placed on inactive status on April 8. One member of the previous Board has resigned from the church. (~~One~~ two of the original five member Board had been removed by vote of the congregation and the District Coordinator's approval before my arrival). One has expressed intent to resign (and sue the church if her $1,000 was not paid by January 7). Two previous Board members are still active and remain neutral whenever possible.

The Pastor and majority of the church are committed to inclusive language as the language of liberation and justice in the church, and wish to continue to express their deeply held Christian convictions in this manner. A program is planned to begin April 20 to educate members to a better understanding of inclusive language, the reaches of Christian theology from a feminist perspective and liberation and justice issues which draw Christian gay men and lesbians together. This is deliberately being held on Sunday to permit people who live at a distance to take advantage of their presence in the city to study with the church. Additionally, a Wednesday evening Introduction to the Bible educational series is being offered for those who have been attending the regular religious education programs of the church. The church goes on! We will be holding conference in November and hope we are in better shape by then.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
MCC Pensacola

25 Apr 1984

To the Members of MCC Pensacola

I have been a Member of MCC Pensacola Since 9 Sep 79 when I found it and My Heavenly Father. and His Son My Lord Jesus Christ. I feel and Know I have not left this Church because this Church left Me. When certain Staff Members can get away with totally UnChristian actions without reprimand while others are acting in a Totally Christian Manner and are censured for their actions I can no longer Feel At Home Here.

Some references have been made about the Vote in Houston in 1981. Having been the Law Representative From this Church in Houston and Toronto, I feel this Church has exceeded the Mandate of the Fellowship in Regard to Inclusive Language. The Action in Houston was not unanimous by original Vote but was made unanimous by Acclamation where no Negative vote was Asked For nor Recorded. Christ was Intentionally left out of the Debate and Vote and it was Acknowledged that He was Historically Male and would Remain So in the Teaching and Preaching of MCC, and would Not, I repeat Not, Be Degendered. In Fact it was my Feeling that the whole Mood of the Conference was Set on Sunday Night, Before the Opening, Monday, at MCC of the Resurrection, Houston when Rev.

Elder Jeri Harvey Preached probably the best Sermon I have Ever Heard in My Life. Because of That Sermon MCC was not torn Apart and Christ was not Castrated. Some People may be Comfortable with a Female Image for God and I acknowledge the Presence of Both Male and Female Qualities in My God But the Lack of the Teaching of the Male as well as the Female Qualities. is wrong. Also If Christ was Female How was he Circumcized as an Infant as Clearly Stated in the Bible. For this Reason I am Tendering My Resignation as Law Representative and as a Member of MCC Pensacola. I know My Lord is with me and will Remain there for the Rest of My Life Because I know I can be Gay and a Christian For this I thank MCC Pensacola. Also I wish to thank You for placing your trust in me By placing me on the Board and Making Me Your Delegate. I am Sorry I has to End This With But I have no Choice but to Resign. Also I have Paid the $232.00 to Bring Lee Carlton here From Ft Myers. I pledged $20.00 of this Figure. and expect reimbursement for the other $202.00.

With much Love in the Lord Jesus Christ

Robert F Bouch

CC: Rev Lee Carlton Dist Coordinator SED.

TO REV. LEE CARLTON - DIST COORDINATOR S.E.D.

IT IS MY WISH TO WITHDRAW MY MEMBERSHIP FROM THIS FELLOWSHIP. I'VE BEEN ATTENDING M.C.C. FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS AND IT IS MY OPINION (AS THAT OF MANY) THAT THE INCLUSIVE DOCTRINE COMBINED WITH FEMINISM IN THE CHURCH ARE MAKING A MOCKERY OF GOD. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY THAT FEEL INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE WITH FEMINIST OVERTONES PREACHED FROM THE PULPIT (BECAUSE OF THE LATTER) HAS BEEN SHOVED DOWN THEIR THROATS.

IN PARTICULAR - THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE TO ME, "YOU MAY WORSHIP AS YOU CHOOSE PRIVATELY, BUT ALL WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE INCLUSIVE." [THUS BEING FEMINIST AS WELL AS INCLUSIVE.) THIS WAY OF THINKING WENT OUT WITH THE INQUISITION! THE FELLOWSHIP NO LONGER MEETS THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF MYSELF IN CONTINUATION WITH M.C.C. PENSACOLA'S PRESENT DOCTRINE - WHICH HAS BEEN MANDATED BY ALL THE FELLOWSHIP - AS TOLD TO ME BY REV. MARGE REGONA.

IT IS MY OBSERVANCE THAT THE BY-LAWS OF U.F.M.C.C. ARE BEING USED IN A MANNER OTHER THAN THAT FOR WHICH THEY WERE ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH ANY DOCTRINE OR DENOMINATION WHICH REFUSES TO REFER TO JESUS CHRIST AS HIM, HE OR THE SON. JESUS WAS A MANIFESTATION OF GOD IN THE FLESH AND HE WAS MALE. EVEN AS A CHILD TO BE REFERRED TO AS SUCH; NOT THE HUMAN ONE. WE ARE ALL HUMAN ONES. THOUGH THIS IS NOT TO SAY ANY OF US ARE WORTHY OF THE SAME TITLE AS OUR SAVIOUR.

AT OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICE I WAS GREATLY DISTURBED WHEN THE WORDS TO "SILENT NIGHT" WERE CHANGED. "THE VIRGIN MOTHER" WAS CHANGED, (RE-WORDED) TO SUIT THE INCLUSIVE MOVEMENT. WHICH — WHEN EXAMINED IS CLEARLY A FEMINIST ISSUE!

AS A GAY CHRISTIAN I SPEAK FOR ALL GAYS WHEN I SAY IT'S BEEN A LONG HARD BATTLE.

THE BATTLES ARE STILL BEING FOUGHT OVER: ALCOHOL. DRUGS. A.I.D.S., OTHER V.D.'S AND OPPRESSION IN GENRAL. BUT- TO START A BATTLE BETWEEN THE SEXES IN THE FELLOWSHIP IS A BATTLE WHICH IS UNESSESSARY AND ONE THROUGH WHICH WE SEGREGATE OURSELVES. FOR IF WE CHOOSE TO RECOGNIZE ALL PEOPLE FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS - THEN WE OPPRESS OURSELVES.

DAVIS D. CARPENTER JR.

CC: REV. LEE CARLTON - DIST. COORDINATOR - SED
REV. TROY PERRY

NOTE - ANY INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE INTRODUCED IN M.C.C. PENSACOLA WAS FOLLOWED BY OR ACCOMPANIED WITH AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF FEMINISM, IN MY OPINION.

Metropolitan Community Church
of Pensacola

NEWSLETTER
April, 1984

510 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. - PHONE: 904-433-8528
Pensacola, Florida 32505

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting has been called at the request of the District Coordinator, Rev. Lee Carlton, to bring MCC Pensacola into compliance with District Standard Operating Procedures for Missions in the U.F.M.C.C.

According to the UFMCC Bylaws, we are entitled to a "treasurer, a clerk, and other officers as needed." By District vote of the Board of Home Missions (which has jurisdiction over Missions), Missions are entitled to have only a treasurer and a clerk, with other officers requiring the permission of the District Coordinator and the Board of Home Missions. MCC Pensacola is at variance with this, having operated with 5 Board members at first and then with seven. Rev. Carlton, at his visit here on Tuesday, April 3rd, requested us to come into compliance.

Therefore, a special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 29, immediately following the morning worship service, for the purpose of electing a clerk and treasurer. All members of MCC Pensacola are asked to attend that meeting. You are reminded, however, that voting is limited to "active" members. In an advisory letter from the Board of Elders, "active" is defined as having shown evidence of regular attendance, financial support, and service contribution. The Fellowship, at the 1983 General Conference, further defined financial support as being the tithe, as a standard for MCC members.

At the regular Board meeting on April 8, the Board reviewed the status of members to decide whether they are eligible to vote. Those members not eligible to vote will receive a letter from the Clerk to that effect. This does not rescind your membership, but does place you on the inactive list until such time as you can request the Board to reactivate your membership and prove your intention by your attendance, financial, and service contributions.

SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES

It is Lent, and both the most solemn and the most joyous days in the Christian year are approaching. At MCC Pensacola we will be observing Holy Week by special worship service on Wednesday, a seder (passover meal) on Thursday, a Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m., and Easter dawn, morning, and evening services. All activities will be held at the church, except the dawn service which will be held at the beach, and maps will be available at the church on Palm Sunday. An Easter vigil will be held all night, Saturday, at the beach. A brunch will be held following the Easter morning service (cost $3.00). The sedar will cost $5.00.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE UPHELD

At the meeting held with Rev. Carlton, inclusive language (that is, language which is not specific to one gender, i.e. says "all people" not "mankind," etc.) was upheld as the language of public expression, including worship services, at MCC.

Quoting from the report of the Elders' Task Force on Inclusive Language, which was passed at the 1981 General Conference: "Because of human sin, we live in a world of division and oppression. Groups which have traditionally exercised control over other groups inevitably and often unconsciously seek to preserve that superior status by denying the same access to power and privilege to others that they themselves enjoy. Such denial may be blatant in the form of discriminatory laws or customs, or it may be hidden but even more potent in the form of oppressive concepts or language. The insidious nature of language which serves to emphasize one group as the norm or standard is that it reinforces that group's primacy and importance every time we think or speak, thus, it becomes automatic or "natural" to ascribe greater weight to that group. Justice, reconciliation, and love demand that we overcome oppression wherever it exists, and we cannot exclude the oppressive structures of our language from this task.

"The use of inclusive language does more than overcome a barrier to equal access. It frees us to apprehend and convey the wider truth. Paul urges the Corinthians to widen their hearts that they might fully experience the gospel (II Cor.6:13). In the same spirit, he might urge us to widen our understanding so that we might better grasp the richness and fullness of God as well as our own humanity. It is our openness to love beyond comfortable and familiar images that enables us to grow in our relationship with God. The importance of inclusive language is that it serves to liberate everyone.

FOR SALE

Two dwarf peach-faced African love birds have been donated to the church for sale. They are a ready-for-breeding pair. The birds are worth $200.00, however, we will accept the best offer over $100.00. They come with cage and all equipment, and a supply of food (as long as it holds out!) If you would like to see the birds (if you haven't) please call the church number and we will set up an appointment.

Faith is followed by action. Be faithful in your tithes, attendance, and service.

CHRIST IS RISEN!
ALLELUIA!

TAX BILL UPDATE

As many of you know, MCC Pensacola was hit with an unexpected property tax bill for $730.00. Apparently, to be exempt from the tax (as a church), we would have had to own the building on January 1, 1983. We purchased the building on January 7, 1983. A protest was filed, a hearing held, and we lost. Due to a large special gift plus our fund raising efforts, we were able to pay this bill. We have filed for an exemption for the current year, and await results. We will keep you posted.

BULK MAIL PERMIT

Some special gifts have permitted us to apply for a bulk mail permit. When we closed our post office box, we voted to put the money from rental of the box to a bulk mail permit. Members have paid the application fee and as soon as we submit all of the required papers, we will be able to mail each piece of mail for $.05. This means we can send out 200 pieces of mail for $10.00, where previously it would cost that for 50. Your next newsletter should reach you using the bulk mail permit.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT NEWS

District Conference

The spring District Conference will be held over the weekend of May 4-6 at Fort Myers, FL. Updates on Government Structures and Systems, Faith, Fellowship and Order, and other Fellowship commissions are expected. Worship leaders and workshops have not been made known yet, with the exception that your pastor has been asked to lead a workshop on "Building an Inclusive Church." Our new District Coordinator, Rev. Lee Carlton, is pastor at Fort Myers, and this should be an excellent conference. The motel overlooks the ocean, and time for beach fun has been built in. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the pastor.

Jacksonville Pastor Dies

Rev. Don Johnson, expastor of MCC Jacksonville, died following a long battle with cancer. Don had previously served another denomination for many years prior to joining MCC. He had pastored MCC Melbourne, Australia before coming to Jacksonville. We will miss our colleague, and pray for his family in their loss.

District Treasurer Ill

Our district treasurer, Larry Klamforth, is apparently suffering from AIDS, and is no longer physically able to handle district business. We pray for Larry as he faces this illness, and for all those who have encountered this dread disease.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

"God, Gays and the Gospel" is now complete and the first viewing of the rough copy has been done. It is good, and Public Broadcasting is interested in showing it at no charge to MCC. Pray for our film witness to the world.

WHAT MAKES A DEACON?

D -- Devotion to God (I Cor.6:20)

E -- Exhortation (encouraging others to commendable living) (Heb. 3:13)

A -- Altruism (living for the good of (others)(Gal 6:10)

C -- Cooperation (working together) (Matthew 18:19)

O -- Obedience (submission to the will of others) (Heb. 13:17)

N -- Near (close at hand and available) (Rom. 13:11)

(Our thanks to Shirley Robinson, Deacon, Modesto, Calif. MCC and TRAX for this definition.)

Deacons can be anyone whose life shows that they are in touch with God and who are willing to care about others and show that concern in action. We love our deacons and their willingness to help wherever and whenever help is needed.

Recently members have made large donations to the deacons' pantry, and we have been able to feed unemployed members and those who have experienced disasters (like a recent fire). At this time the main need in the pantry is for protein foods (like tuna fish, canned meats, or beans). Canned fruit, macaroni and spaghetti, and rice are always needed, as are canned foods which require little heating (for those who have no facilities). Powdered milk in individual packets is also useful. People in need are given 3 days food supply and referred to Manna Food Bank if there is further need, or to the local Food Stamp Office for longer assistance. If you know of anyone in our community in need, please contact the deacons via the church number. Some clothing for men and women is also available, and cash in very small amounts (like $5.00) can be made available to job hunters. If you would like to contribute to the deacon's fund or pantry, please contact the church. (Checks should be made out to MCC and noted "for the deacon's fund.")

HELP WANTED

Editor for the newsletter. Please contact the pastor. Literacy, originality, and typing ability are the main requirements!

Clean up crews for the church interior and exterior. Please see Chad for further information.

Round-Up crews. Booth, cooking, and ticket sales people are needed. Job begins in fall, but preparation is beginning now. Get in on the ground floor!

New Freedom Evangelistic Team will be selling the Silver Eagle bus and using the money to start a radio ministry. The bus has been unused since Ron has been pastoring MCC Illiamo. We wish our brothers and sisters well.

clean up time

CHURCH CLEAN-UP IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY. PLEASE SEE MARSHA IF YOU CAN HELP AND WHEN.

ALSO: LINDA IS CHAIRING THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE AND NEEDS EVERYONES HELP.

REMEMBER: Cans have a special basket and we have been blessed with $ $ $ by turning them in.

Dirty cups and trash go in the trash can.

If you SMOKE Please empty an ashtray.

choir notes

Stewardship is not always something you can count. It is quit often a talent you can share.

Some of us couldn't carry a tune in a bag but love to sing.

Some of us love to sing and carry a tune... those should join the CHOIR.

PLEASE SEE GEORGE.

FLORIDA TASK FORCE

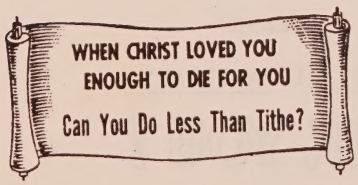
WHAT IS IT? ? ? ?

The FTF is an organization which local gay people should know about. It is the state-wide organization responsible for organizing the gay and lesbian concerns for the State of Florida. It's also the only state with a full time professional lobbyist for the past four years. Its lobbyist has on several occasions been able to foam coalitions which have STOPPED various anti-gay bills while promoting various pro-human rights measures. The FTF has provided or enlisted legal counsel in various gay-rights cases and sponsered state conferences for the past seven years. All of these functions require money and lots of it. FTF has had many fund raising functions but funding by membership dues provides tangible evidence of grass-roots support as well as funding this valuable working organization. Dues are $20 per year which covers a newsletter and voting priveledges in the annual conference

For further information contact: Bena Diggs or write: P.O. Box 10367 Tallahasee, Florida 32302

CHURCH STATISTICS

Watch this space next month for the October Averages.



THIS IS MY CHURCH

It is composed of people like me. **We make it what it is.**

I want it to be a church that is a lamp to the path of pilgrims, leading them to Goodness, Truth and Beauty. It will be, **if I am.**

It will be friendly, **if I am.**

Its pews will be filled, **if I help to fill them.**

It will do great work, **if I work.**

It will make generous gifts to many causes, **if I am a generous giver.**

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, **if I bring them.**

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church of noble spirit — **if I,** who make it what it is, **am filled with these.**

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

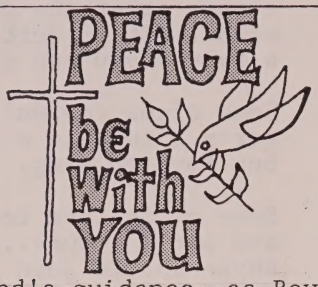
—Copied

M.C.C. PENSACOLA
510 MASSACHUSETTS AV.
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32505

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PENSACOLA
510 Massachusetts Ave.

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor — Ph. 433-8528
Steve Urie, Student Clergy — Ph. 434-1632
Terry Douglas, Deacon — Ph. 1-243-8352

Vol. I | OCTOBER - 1983 | No. 01



Starting with the nest issue; this space will be provided by Rev. Marge. It has been the hopes and dreams of Terry and myself that the church would at least stay status quo during the interim period, that we were without a pastor. As it is, God's wisdom and blessings have been with this church; God's church. We have grown and felt our Loving Parent's hand at every turn. Please join Terry and I in prayers. Prayers for this church and its continued works through God's guidance as Rev. Marge is used as an instrument of Love and Truth.

In God's Love and Peace
Terry and Steve

SEVEN HAPPY PEOPLE

1. Happy is the one whose sins are forgiven. (Romans 4:7,8)
2. Happy is the one who dwells in the in the house of the Creator (Psalm 84:4)
3. Happy is the one who puts his/her trust in the Lord. (Psalm 84:12)
4. Happy is the one who delights in God's Word (Psalm 119:14-16)
5. Happy is the one who waits on the Lord. (Isaiah 30:18, 40:31)
6. Happy is the one who keeps God's Commandments (1 John 3:21-24)
7. Happy is the one who has grace to endure (James 1:12)

"I choose to put in order my thoughts and hang the walls of my mind with pictures of whatsoever things are lovely and of good report."
Joseph Murphy

Do I have the power to choose my thoughts my moods? Yes! I can choose to put love at the center of my being. That love, that center being God. That way I put the warmth and cheer God grants me, with me always. I do not have to let the world's doings dictate my moods. I can and YOU can think about and be what you want to be.

When we pray and meditate, let's choose faith; expecting the best and making room for it in our minds and souls. Let's choose to let God light our paths and to be our strength and our joy.

For today and always; let US choose things that are lovely and Christlike to put in our minds and hearts.

Membership and attendance UP!

Tithes and offerings DOWN!

These may not be headlines for the local news; yet it is on record at many churches to be PLAIN FACT. Times are not easy for many of us But giving up one coke or other favorite drink per day would not hurt any of us. In our private lives we must meet certain requirements to maintain our homes...the same is true for the church. It is every ones responsibility to help main- Gods' house and that includes its debts. Join me this month to give up one six pack of whatever you drink. Then add this to what you give - NOT as an increase in tithe but a love offering to Gods' house. Steve

PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE!

NO SMOKING IN THE SANCTUARY.

THANK YOU !

HAVE YOU HEARD? We have a new churchletter. And GUESS WHAT? Your reading it. After researching newsletters from several churches in the area and comparing cost - this is the most cost-effective. In effect we have taken editorial privilege and put the "Sandscript" to rest. If you have anything you would like to put in the NEW Newsletter ...Please see Steve.

THANK YOU!

Flowers donated Sunday, October 2, in memory of my Grandfathers:

Clarence Burwick
Thomas Urie
Clifford Robertson

Thoughts of Life T.M.

Poems and sentiments suitable for notecards
are always welcomed, and may be sent to:
Blue Mountain Arts, P.O. Box 1007, Boulder, CO 80306

Blue Mountain Arts™

P.O. Box 4549, Boulder, Colorado 80306
Copyright © Continental Publications, 1977.
All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
DESIGNED AND HAND-LETTERED
BY STEPHEN SCHUTZ

39089-8

75NC490

Thank You

Gratitude is the hardest of all
emotions to express.
There is no word capable of
conveying all that one feels.
Until we reach a world
where thoughts can be
adequately expressed in words,
"thank you"
will have to do.

—A. P. Gouthey

Thank you for so much -

Always,
Andrea

MCC Pensacola Financial Report for February 1984

Balance on Hand as of January 31, 1984.....			479.53
Receipts:			
Sunday offerings	853.47		
Feb rent income	200.00		
Wed nite offering.....	161.43		
sale of literature.....	12.00		
special offering on tax bill....	133.79	1360.69	
Total of General Fund.....			1840.22
Disbursements:			
Feb 3 # 179 Sec of State	10.00		
Feb 3 # 180 Southern Bell Tel.....	45.58		
Feb 3 # 181 Escambia Cty Utility ..	8.44		
Feb 3 # 182 City of Pensa-gas	10.98		
Feb 3 # 183 Gulf Power.....	107.86		
Feb 5 # 184 Rev Marge Ragona-Honor.	138.46		
Feb 5 # 185 Thomas F Thomsen-mortga	498.89		
Feb 5 # 186 State Farm Insurance	100.25		
Feb 12 # 187 Rev Marge Ragona.....	138.46		
Feb 13 # 188 Southern Bell Tel.....	58.98	(to replace ck lost)	
Feb 13 # 189 Southern Bell Tel.....	36.36		
Feb 13 # 190 Escambia Cty Utilities	10.96		
Feb 13 # 191 Angle Palma-Communion W	11.50		
Feb 19 # 192 Rev Marge Ragona.....	138.46		
Feb 19 # 193 Steve Urie-cards.....	25.00		
Feb 19 # 194 UFMCC-Dec tithe.....	118.17		
Feb 19 # 195 SE District-Dec tithe.	23.63		
Feb 26 # 196 Rev Marge Ragona.....	138.46		
Feb 26 # 197 Gulf Power-Elec.....	53.95	1674.39	
Balance on Hand as of February 29, 1984.....			224.81

****

DESIGNATED SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 1984..... 272.90

****

BUILDING FUND SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 1984..... 543.94

We would like to be placed back on the active membership list as soon as possible.

Sheila M. Hammelman

P.S.

Judy Richard

I would like to be placed on the active list for the Deaconship. I have submitted my letter to the clerk to be placed back on the active status for membership.

J. P., Judy Richards

10-21-84

Metropolitan Community Church
of Pensacola

510 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. - PHONE: 904-433-8528
Pensacola, Florida 32505

Do we need to send you a current list of members?

I am appending herewith a list of our current officers and staff:

PASTOR: Rev. Marge Ragona

BOARD: Ms. Bena Diggs, Treasurer
Ms. Pat Brown, Clerk.

STUDENT CLERGY: Ms. Angel Palma

DEACON: Mr. Larry Hauffe

I will have Angel send the papers that came from Ken Martin to you and to him, so that she will be officially registered with the District and the Credentials Sub-Committee on Student Clergy. Larry, I don't think, has ever been approved by the District as a deacon, but he's a darn good one, and I could not operate without him.

Steve dropped out over this whole mess, very appropriately, because it was he who opened the door through which everyone rushed, so he is no longer student clergy.

Terry Douglas transferred his letter to Ft. Walton, so he is no longer a deacon with us.

I don't think there is anything else I need to touch base with you about, but if there is, I will write again.

Keep us in your prayers. We are doing well. If we weather the summer, we should begin to grow again in the fall. I think we will do very well, but it's just a matter of hanging in until the tide begins to turn. Unfortunately, most of the folk who left are bar people, and they have been very vocal in the bars. Most of us are not, and it has been hard to combat what they are saying when most of us aren't around to tell people otherwise. We're just hoping that enough new people will be around that we can reach who haven't been brainwashed by the others -- who are totally convinced that we are dragging people headlong into hell on the coattails of inclusive language. Heaven defend us!

Incidentally, I think I replaced you on the Credentials' Committee. I was appointed to the seat you vacated, jumping over Willie Smith, who could not attend the meeting in Philadelphia, and I could, so I was appointed a year early. It was exciting work we completed there, and I think we were able to heal a number of folk who were not licensed and brought challenges. I hope we did, anyway.

See you in November. I trust your father is well, also.

LOve -- In Christ
Marge Ragona